



## HISTORIC BEAUTY SPOT GETS £10K GRANT FOR POOL WORK



The Leasowes Nature Reserve in Halesowen

SUPPORTERS of Leasowes Nature Reserve in Halesowen are celebrating following a successful application for a £10,000 lottery grant.

The grant will finance work to the Priory Pool, which has already seen significant improvements being made by the Friends of The Leasowes over the last four years.

The 'Awards4all' grant will enable the team to install an access platform for educational and recreational activities and will buy a number of new plants that will go in and around the pool to help improve diversity of its wildlife habitat.

A floating island for wildfowl will be installed and three protected water pens will be created to help establish aquatic plants.

Judy Hill, volunteer at the nature reserve, said: "It's always lovely to see people out and about and enjoying all the aspects of the nature reserve. It's very beautiful and the money will be put to good use which will benefit all of the wildlife and visitors. I'm sure the work will be very appreciated."

### Accessibility

Dudley Council has also pledged to undertake tree pruning around the pool to increase light levels and path resurfacing from the car park to the pool to improve accessibility.

Marianne Diller from the Friends of The Leasowes, said: "We're working with Dudley Council to make some really exciting im-

provements to the pool and this grant will help us to improve its biodiversity."

The reserve, which is listed, was designed by poet and landscape garden pioneer William Shenstone between 1743 and 1763.

Alan Lunt, Dudley Council's strategic director for place, said: "Dudley Council is delighted to be working with volunteers from the friends group to maintain and improve the beautiful green space of The Leasowes and this grant will make a huge difference to our educational and conservation activities at Priory Pool."

For more information on The Leasowes contact the nature reserve's wardens on (01384) 814642.

## POLITICS

### MP gives full support to election decision

CONSERVATIVE Halesowen & Rowley Regis MP James Morris has welcomed Prime Minister Theresa May's shock announcement of a June 8 General Election.

Mr Morris said: "This election will add stability and security to the lives of people in Halesowen & Rowley Regis."

"What Britain needs now is clarity, and a Prime Minister with a strong mandate to lead us out of the European Union."

"Labour, the SNP and the Liberal Democrats want to try and stall our exit. I am determined to ensure that the will of people here in Halesowen & Rowley Regis is fulfilled – and a General Election is a way of doing that."

## FIRE

### Derelict pub blaze is suspected arson

A DERELICT pub was set fire in a suspected arson attack in the Black Country. The Doll's House, on Newbury Lane in Oldbury, was left charred and with holes in the roof.

Fire crews were called to the fire at around 7.10pm on Monday.

A total of four fire engines were called to the scene, made up of three crews from Oldbury and one from Haden Cross.

Firefighters confirmed it was a suspected arson attack.

## ROADS

### Main route to M5 closed off at night

A MAJOR dual carriageway linking Dudley, Stourbridge and Halesowen with the M5 will be closed overnight for a week.

Manor Way in Halesowen is being shut in both directions from 8pm to 6am every night until Sunday due to the roundabout at Junction 3 being closed for roadworks.

Motorists face detours in the evening with closures in place from the Grange roundabout with a diversion along Grange Road, Bromsgrove Road, Mucklow Hill, Halesowen Road and Hagley Road West.

That work is being followed by a huge scheme at the Oldbury viaduct, which will see the M5 speed limit reduced to 30mph.

## INSIDE

### SPARKS FLY AT THE MUSEUM



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# Conman ordered to pay back thousands of pounds SHED FRAUDSTER AVOIDS JAIL TERM

A FRAUDSTER who conned customers out of hundreds of pounds by promising them sheds which were never delivered has avoided prison.

Steven Corbett advertised his Cradley Heath shed-making business via online auction site eBay and told customers he could only accept payment up front. When the sheds never arrived he made excuses, including that a relative had died, and assured them deliveries would take place. There were at least 10 victims of Corbett's scam, with individual payments as large as £2,090.

He was bombarded with phone calls and emails by disgruntled customers when the sheds never turned up.

Trading standards were alerted and visited Corbett's business, Pine Sheds. Corbett was visibly relieved as he was given a suspended jail sentence at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Tuesday.

The court heard how customers agreed to pay up front for sheds on the understanding Corbett would then call to arrange a delivery date. When one man questioned the policy, Corbett, of Tack Farm Road, Stourbridge, insisted he needed payment up front.

### Deserted

Another out-of-pocket customer travelled three hours from Hertfordshire to try and track Corbett down but found his unit deserted. Workers from a neighbouring business informed him several others had also tried to find him.

The majority of the payments made to Corbett ranged between £500 and £800 and in total he received £7,375, which he has now been ordered to pay back.

Mr Robert Cowley, prosecuting, said: "It quickly became apparent to this defendant

### Report by Richard Guttridge

that when he was taking orders and taking full payment in advance for the sheds he did so knowing he would not be able to complete the orders."

Corbett ripped off customers over a six-month period, starting in January 2015, the court heard. Mr Cowley told how the rogue trader gave 'excuse after excuse' to one buyer. He said: "He agreed a future delivery date which was again cancelled. Various excuses were given, that he was in hospital, on holiday and on one occasion he said he had a dying relative."

Corbett pleaded guilty to 10 counts of fraud by false representation and was given an eight-month prison term, suspended for 18 months. He was also ordered to pay back the £7,375 as compensation to the victims.

Recorder Geoffrey Kelly told him: "People lost money they worked hard for, they would have spent days and days having to contact a man they thought was an honest trader but clearly wasn't."

Mr Benjamin Williams, defending, said: "The defendant said he didn't maliciously go out to rip anyone off but go himself into a hole he couldn't get out of."

## 'Trolled' mother's charity venture



Making bracelets to raise money for charity, is Sam Carrier, of Dudley, with her daughter Daisy Evans

A MOTHER who was bullied online by internet 'trolls' after posting a video of her carrying out physiotherapy on her baby daughter has started a new charity initiative.

Samantha Carrier, from Milking Bank, turned her heartbreak into fundraising after finding out her daughter had cystic fibrosis last year.

Her new fundraising venture focuses on making pretty personalised bracelets.

When she uploaded a video of her giving Daisy physiotherapy, internet trolls posted comments saying she was 'hitting' her child and sent abuse.

Other mothers, who realise the therapy is essential to help the child breathe by clearing mucus, congratulated her for raising awareness.

Her new fundraising venture are customised bracelets, originally aimed at mothers in a similar position. Visit [www.facebook.com/beadstocf/](http://www.facebook.com/beadstocf/)

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# Yeltz owner to appeal over FA's ban



Yeltz owner Steve Lynch

HALESOWEN TOWN owner has been banned from all football-related activity for two years.

Following a hearing at Wembley last week, FA bosses banned Steve Lynch for two years from May 1 this year until May 1, 2019. Yeltz have also been fined £5,000 – with half of that suspended for three years.

Lynch said he was 'extremely disappointed' with the decision and intended to appeal.

The majority of the 12 charges – three for Lynch and nine for the club

– reportedly surrounded the owner's involvement at the now defunct Eastwood Town and an alleged failure to disclose an interest in Yeltz at the same time. Eastwood went out of business in 2014.

Other charges allegedly centred on a breach of player loan rules in 2012 and issues concerning the reporting of the club's accounts between 2011 and 2013.

Lynch told The Chronicle's sister newspaper, the Express & Star: "I am extremely disappointed with the outcome and am filing papers for an appeal. "A committee run the place anyway

and it is a family business. When I took over the first target was to make the business self-funded." A statement on the club's website read: "Steve Lynch this week attended Wembley Stadium in a personal hearing after charges were brought against the club and himself.

"Steve and the club have always worked closely with the FA during their investigation and have always been forthcoming in the information requested. It is the intention of Steve to appeal against his ban due to the severity of this penalty."

# Cocaine and cannabis gang put behind bars

A GANG who stashed £160,000 worth of drugs in rented houses in the Black Country have been jailed for a total of 52 years.

The crooks were caught when a slab of cocaine was hurled from a bedroom window as the net closed in – only for it to fall at the feet of a police officer.

Police stormed the house in Quinton last September following an eight-month undercover operation. The drugs fell near the officer who was at the 'safe house' in Hagley Road West, used by the gang to cut, weigh and bag-up drugs.

This led to the discovery of a huge haul of cannabis at rented properties in Brookfields Road and Pitcairn Road, Oldbury, and Bloomfield Street West, Halesowen.

The 11-strong gang were convicted at Birmingham Crown Court in connection with a cocaine and cannabis supply network with links to Milton Keynes and Weston-super-Mare.

The three main players, Erion Shyti, 38, Alush Staka, 25, and Xhulio Dervishi, 23, were jailed for 10 years, nine years and six years, four months respectively for conspiracy to supply cocaine and produce cannabis. Granit Ismajlal, 31, was convicted of the same offences and is to be sentenced at a later date. All four are of no fixed address.

Nine pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing but 27-year-old Mohammed Hussain and 26-year-old Prince Martin-Fullerton were found guilty of conspiracy to supply drugs. Hussain, of Elmhurst Road, Handsworth, was jailed for four years. Martin-Fullerton, of West Street, Leicester, supplied cocaine and heroin and was jailed for 11 years.

Detective Constable Ben Edwards, of West Midlands Police, said: "The gang provided drugs in large quantities for other dealers in the West Midlands, Weston Super Mare and Milton Keynes. Their drugs empire unravelled after police spotted a drug deal in Birmingham."

Aaron Mitchell, 24 of Broughton Road, Handsworth, and Agron Nurja, 25, of Oakworth Avenue, Milton Keynes, were jailed for two years, eight months, and two years for conspiracy to supply cocaine. Steven Stonier, 37, of Rillstone Road, Quinton, got two years and 10 months for conspiracy to produce cannabis. Elson Hajdaraj, 27, and Silvio Arzedi, 26, of no fixed address, were jailed for two years for the same offence.

## Sparks flew at museum's big weekend



Give it some 'ommer – chainmaker Kevin Lowe at work at the Black Country Living Museum in Tipton Road

A CELEBRATION of the industrial might of the Black Country was held over the Easter weekend.

The Black Country Living Museum, in Tipton Road, Dudley, hosted the Industrial Might exhibition, marking the region's worldwide reputation for its manufacturing prowess, with its goods exported to the furthest reaches of the planet.

The museum played host to dozens of extra activities and demonstrations so visitors could get a feel

for what it would have been like to live and work during the period.

Costumed staff were on hand during the Bank Holiday weekend to rewind the clock for visitors.

Families could step inside the Newcomen steam engine building and marvel at its size, grab a hat and torch and head into the underground drift mine, or watch a chainmaker toiling away.

The museum has other exciting plans in the pipeline such as experience days which include the chance

to drive a tram, bake in a Victorian bakery, make old school sweets, and a forge experience day.

The museum has become even more popular since it has been used to film popular TV period dramas, such as *Peaky Blinders*.

Jonathan Wilson, deputy chief executive of collections, learning and research at the museum, said: "It's easy to forget the conditions that people used to live in and how they used to live," he said. "The museum brings this to life."

# By George, lots of red and white patriotic fun

THE Black Country will turn red and white on Sunday to celebrate England's patron Saint George.

Thousands will take to the streets to celebrate St George's Day on April 23.

The St George's Day parade in Stone Cross, West Bromwich, is believed to be the biggest in England.

Elsewhere in the Black Country, Dudley Zoo will be holding a medieval-themed St George's Day celebration.

The parade in West Bromwich will be led by member of the Royal British Legion on St George's Day and start from 9.45am at the Horse and Jockey pub, on Stoney Lane, before heading to Dartmouth Park.

Parade founder and organiser Mark Cowels, aged 48, from West Bromwich, said: "We want people to come along and enjoy St George's Day, and get into a celebratory and patriotic mood.

"We are hoping for in the region of 10,000 people. The parade is by far the biggest in England."

Meanwhile, in Dudley, St George's Day celebrations will focus on Dudley Zoo at Castle Hill. In the courtyard of 11th century Dudley Castle there will be medieval re-enactments and children's entertainment.

Zoo director Derek Grove said: "There are only a limited amount of tickets left, so we urge anyone interested to book now to avoid disappointment."

Tickets will cost £2.50, and can be bought by calling (01384) 215313 until every ticket has gone.

# New bingo venue in licence move

A BINGO hall, creating 25 jobs, has moved a step closer to opening in Dudley town centre.

Mecca Bingo has lodged a licence application to open the new venue on High Street. Bosses will seek to clear the final hurdle at a licensing meeting on Tuesday.

The unit has stood empty since discount store Select and Save closed last year. The proposal was recently given the green light by Dudley Council's development control committee.

The firm said it was keen to improve attractions on offer in Dudley by taking over the empty unit, and that it would mark an investment of £850,000.

It is to be created under the name Luda, part of a chain of smaller clubs which aim to appeal to younger players.

# Fiddler musical is set to lift the roof

POPULAR 'If I Were A Rich Man' musical Fiddler On The Roof will be staged by Tinkers Farm Opera at Stourbridge Town Hall from May 24 to 27. Tickets are £15 adults and £7.50 children. Shows at 7.15pm plus matinee on May 27. Call (01384) 812812.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

# £1.5m revamp at park and its pitch

A BLACK Country park is to be completely overhauled as part of a £1.5 million restoration plan to make the park more popular.

A community garden and pond will be added to Stevens Park in Quarry Bank and the football pitch and footpaths refurnished.

The work will see its historic White House building restored and the bandstand refurbished.

Dudley Council has worked with Friends of Mary Stevens Park to put a bid together for £1.5m from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

# Church has zero tolerance for yobs

CAMPAIGNERS at a recently reopened Dudley church say they have launched a 'zero tolerance' approach to anti-social behaviour.

It comes after yobs urinated against the war memorial at the historic St John's, in Kates Hill, recently. The Save St John's Church campaign group say that they are now looking into extending the protection of the church and grounds. Chairman Deb Brownlee said: "We're aiming for zero tolerance on anti-social behaviour. This includes litter, dog mess, or using the area as a toilet."

# Charity's cancer advice sessions

A CANCER charity is holding advice sessions across Dudley this month.

Staff from White House Cancer Support will be on hand with information for people affected by cancer.

Visitors to the sessions will be about to find out support services available in the borough.

The sessions are at Sedgley Library on Monday, Stourbridge Library on Wednesday and Brierley Hill Library on Thursday (April 27) from 12pm to 2pm.

# Micro-pub extension approved by council

A MICRO-PUB in Halesowen will be extended into a cafe – despite objections from some residents.

Planners gave the go-ahead for the empty shop adjoining the bar in Was-sell Road to be changed into a hot food takeaway with a new shop front.

It will be a coffee shop during the daytime and an extended pub in the evening.

The micro-bar, which was a former pet shop, was originally opened in December 2015.

# Manhole repair closure

MILL Bank in Sedgley, between the Bull Ring and Whitesmiths Close, will be closed on Sunday to allow for work to be carried out.

Amey, on behalf of Severn Trent Water, will be carrying out repairs to a manhole cover. Diversions will be via High Street and Bilston Street.

# New £25m leisure plan for centre in heart of town

A £25 million leisure centre with an eight-lane swimming pool could be built in the heart of Dudley.

Council bosses have revealed details of an option being explored as they seek to find the best way forward over controversial plans for the borough's leisure facilities.

The Labour-run council was forced to back down over proposals to close existing leisure centres in Dudley, Stourbridge and Halesowen, replacing them with two new facilities, following a fierce backlash from the public and opposition councillors.

It has been suggested the new centre could be built in Flood Street, near the eyesore Cavendish House office block, to be closer to the bus station, which is itself due to undergo a major renovation and to be integrated with a Midland Metro extension.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, borough regeneration boss, said one of the options is to build the new facility. He hit back at critics of the council's plans for leisure centres, insisting improvements were needed soon.

"The reality is that our leisure centres are not fit for purpose, are old, outdated, tired and run down," he said. "They cost the taxpayer nearly £2m per year in subsidy and need to have a further £3.2m invested."

"We intend to have further discussions to explore the possibility of starting work on a new leisure facility in the heart of the town centre, combined with redevelopment of Dudley bus station, Metro interchange, Cavendish House and Flood Street area."

# Firm get share of £19m car tech cash

A CAR manufacturer in Kingswinford will share in a £19.2 million Government investment to support driverless and low-carbon vehicles.

Westfield Sportscars in Dudley Road was announced as one of three West Midlands firms – alongside Jaguar Land Rover and Pensio – which will receive the funding to help develop the next generation of cars.

Westfield will head up a consortium that will deliver an affordable and hybrid powertrain, a key part of any vehicle engine.

Andy Street, former managing director of John Lewis and Conservative candidate for West Midlands Mayor, said: "These technologies are what will drive our economy in the future, creating jobs."

# Call for action on the speeders

A COMMUNITY speedwatch initiative could be launched in Stourbridge to tackle thoughtless motorists.

It comes as concerns have been raised about cars speeding around the town centre.

# F1-zzogs win celebrity fan at 'gran prix'



Lewis Hamilton and the Dancing Grannies

MOTOR racing champion Lewis Hamilton has become the latest fan of the Dancing Grannies.

The comic trio, from Dudley, bumped into the F1 star in Bahrain where they are performing at the Grand Prix.

They posed for a photo with Lewis who uploaded the picture to social media site Snapchat with the caption 'Shout out to the Dancin grannies'. The star went on to finish second in the race.

"It's fair to say that Lewis loved us," revealed Sue Hawkins of Fizzog Productions in Dudley, which is also made up of fellow theatre partners Jacky Fellows and Deb Nicholls. Lewis also took time out to sign their Black Country flag.

Sue, Jacky and Deb were spotted performing on the streets of the Edinburgh Festival last year when they were offered the glamour gig in the Middle East. They first found fame when a video of them dancing at Stourbridge Carnival went viral on the internet.

Their alter egos, Letty, May and Hilda, have had to cope with swelter-

ing temperatures in Bahrain as they rubbed shoulders with glitzy VIPs in the paddock of the Bahrain International Circuit.

They also met crews of Mercedes-AMG Motorsport, and took time out to have a go at go-karting.

The Fizzogs said on their Facebook page: "It's HOT but we didn't collapse (always a bonus!), they have a Nando's (always a bonus!), the cars are really really loud but it's really exciting to hear. We are LOVING the GP and they are loving the Dancing Grannies!."

# We miss them so much, says heartbroken father

'WE just miss them so much. We were really happy. Now our lives have got a huge hole in them.'

The heartbreaking words of devastated father Peter Wilkinson who has spoken for the first time since his wife and son were stabbed to death at their Stourbridge home.

Mr Wilkinson has paid tribute to his 'absolute angel' Tracey and 13-year-old son Pierce and revealed the extensive injuries he had suffered.

The 47-year-old, a managing director at Hill & Smith and Asset International in Bilston where he has worked for 17 years, was lucky to survive after being stabbed multiple times in the horrific incident at the family home in Greyhound Lane, Norton. Revealing the extent of his injuries, Mr Wilkinson said: "I nearly lost my life. I got six deep stab wounds."

Son Pierce, who went to Redhill School, and 50-year-old Tracey died in the attack on March 30.

Last week Mr Wilkinson left the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham where he had spent almost a fortnight. He is now recuperating at a relative's home, with 18-year-old daughter Lydia, who was away studying at the University of Bristol when the attack happened.

Father and daughter, both season ticket holders at West Bromwich Albion, were at The Hawthorns on Sunday for the match against Liverpool where players and fans joined in a minute's applause as the big screen showed pictures of Tracey and Pierce.



Players and fans joined in a minute's applause as the big screen showed pictures of Tracey and Pierce

## Tears

Fighting back tears, Mr Wilkinson said: "We were in a happy family bubble, the four of us. Lydia was at Bristol University doing great. Pierce was at school, which he loved. And my wife was an absolute angel. We had such a happy family life."

"We always helped others. We are a charitable family. My wife did a lot of work to help other people. She wouldn't walk past a homeless person on the street without stopping to give them a sandwich. She was that type of person. We just miss them so much. We were really happy. Now our lives have got a huge hole in them."

Lydia, who visited the family home to lay flowers and read messages left by friends, neighbours and well-wishers, added: "They were loved by everyone. They are irreplaceable. Just extraordinary people."

Aaron Barley, aged 23, has been charged with two counts of murder. Mr Wilkinson confirmed he was known to them, saying Tracey met him while he was homeless and the family had helped him over 12 months although he did not live with them.



Peter Wilkinson, left, with Lydia at the Hawthorns



Happy times - Piers, Lydia and Peter Wilkinson

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## COUNTY NEWS

### Record-breaking start for airport

BIRMINGHAM Airport is celebrating a record-breaking start to spring after it handled tens of thousands of extra passengers last month.

New figures show 904,790 passengers passed through the airport in March, 73,000 more than in the same month in 2016, up by 8.9 per cent.

Both long and short haul services saw significant growth with long haul up by 8.3 per cent compared to the same month last year and short haul up by nine per cent. By the end of this year, it will have invested £450m on developing its infrastructure.

### £1,000 donation for A&E charity

A PIONEERING accident and emergency charity with its HQ in Birmingham has received a £1,000 donation from a leading UK housebuilder to support its latest life-saving project.

Arrive Alive Response, which will provide first response vehicles to NHS services, hospices and air ambulance across the UK, has received the donation through Persimmon Homes Central Community Champions scheme, which gives away more than £700,000 across the UK each year. The charity has been leading the way with support programmes for almost 20 years.

### DIY disasters costing £3,600

THE Midlands is the second most costly place for repairing DIY mistakes in the UK, according to new research. People in the Midlands pay more than £3,600 on repairing DIY disasters. Only Londoners pay more and it is people in their 20s and 30s who appear keen to take on risky tasks usually left to professionals with 19 per cent tackling electrical wiring and 13 per cent a house extension.

# Potholes plague persists



**WE asked readers to help us highlight some of our worst pothole-plagued roads – and you did not let us down.**

In fact, the problem seems to be worse than we feared with some shocking pictures of crumbling roads arriving from across the Black Country and Staffordshire.

It would appear, from the reports we are getting, that the problem is particularly severe across Staffordshire.

Motorist Paul Gill sent us this picture of Hill Top in Hednesford where fresh road markings have simply been painted over the potholes!

He said: "The potholes around Hednesford are ridiculous particularly ALL around the islands at Hill Top (Hill Street/Uxbridge Street) but amazingly instead of them being filled they get the lines painted through them! You can see just how deep this hole is by the dip in the white line.

#### Riddled

Andrew Kennerley sent us pictures of Carlisle Road on the Longford Estate which has been flagged up before by readers. He said: "I must say the surface of the Wellington Drive end of the road is completely breaking up. I have tried reporting but when the council gets round to filling one, about three appear! It's one of the worst roads I know of in Cannock."

This road was also highlighted by Sandra McLeod. She said: "The whole length of the road is riddled with very bad potholes and you cannot swerve past them in your car as residents park on the road nearly the whole length down one side mainly."

Diane Clement was one of a number of readers who pointed out another stretch of road in Staffordshire which



Two examples of the poor state of Carlisle Road in Cannock



Paul Gill's picture of Hill Top



Here are just three of the many potholes in High Street, Pattingham and they have been there for a long time



is a pothole hotspot – the A460 between the M6 Junction 11 and the M6 Toll slip road.

She said: "This is a very busy stretch of road where traffic is travelling at a high speed (unlike the urban potholes where cars are travelling below 30mph). There are several large areas of damage to the surface of the road."

"I often take this road to get to the toll road and find I have to pick my way. At the weekend coming south on this road it was dark and I could not avoid the potholes as I was travelling at about 40mph I went bang into one of them. I think I was lucky not to damage my suspension."

And don't think that the villages are immune. In Pattingham the High

Street is covered in potholes as the pictures above show. But the problem is not restricted to Staffordshire. We have already had a number of crumbling roads flagged up to us in Wolverhampton, Bloxwich and Kingswinford and now Sid Clegg has highlighted problems in Halesowen.

He said the 'whole length of Richmond Street from Windsor School gate to the brow of the hill' has potholes.

There may, however, be some relief on the way for Hednesford drivers with hopes of a road improvement scheme being carried out at Hill Top.

Hednesford and Rawsley county councillor George Adamson said the county council had agreed to put the long-awaited road improvement

scheme at Hill Top into this year's road improvements programme. The final programme is to be confirmed in the next few weeks. The scheme, at £225,000, includes resurfacing the junction and approximately 50 metres of the approaches to it. Councillor Adamson said: "Local people have been asking for this work to be done for a long time."

The Chronicle wants to identify the top 10 pothole blackspots in the region to flag up to our councils. If you know of any pothole-ridden routes or deep holes email details, preferably with a picture, your name and comments to Sue.Attwater@expressandstar.co.uk or at Editorial, The Chronicle, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

## Scarlet fever cases are on the rise across region

MORE than 250 cases of scarlet fever have been confirmed across the Black Country and parts of Staffordshire since September, new figures reveal.

Public Health England (PHE) said the total number of children diagnosed with the disease in the country had risen for the third year in a row.

The number of cases increased by more than 20 per cent to 369 in the West Midlands.

Latest figures show there have been around 260 cases reported across Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Dudley, Walsall, Cannock and Stafford between September 5 and April 2. Around 198 cases were reported in the same areas between the start of September 2015 and the middle of March 2016.

Dudley has seen the highest number of cases since the start of September with approximately 84 children diagnosed.

Tony Oakman, strategic director at Dudley Council, said: "Scarlet fever is an infection that causes a blotchy, pink-red rash and is most common in young children under the age of 10, but can affect people of any age. The infection isn't usually serious and is treatable with antibiotics."

"In Dudley we identified some years ago scarlet fever cases were rising so we have been raising awareness among schools and nurseries about the signs and symptoms and what to do."

Scarlet fever is a bacterial illness that mainly affects children and is distinctive due to its pink-red rash. It is highly contagious and should be treated with antibiotics.

A PHE spokesman said: "Children or adults diagnosed with scarlet fever are advised to stay at home until at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection."

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## Jail term cut for benefits cheat woman

A REPENTANT benefits cheat who did not tell the authorities she was working has had her jail term cut by top judges. Belinder Kaur, aged 59, of Scott Road, Great Barr, was put behind bars for 14 weeks at Wolverhampton Crown Court on March 14.

Kaur, of previous good character, was entitled to various benefits including incapacity benefit. Mr Justice William Davis told London's Appeal Court. But between August 2010 and August 2015 there were times when she was working for several months at a time, but she did not tell the authorities and received more than £9,000.

Kaur admitted three counts of dishonestly failing to notify a change of circumstances affecting her entitlement to benefit payments. Before sentence she had agreed to pay back the amount, with £3,000 paid off.

She had 'significant health problems' and her remorse was 'clearly genuine' given the repayments, said Mr Justice Davis. Jason Pegg, for Kaur, argued her jail term was far too tough and ought to be cut.

The Crown Court judge had said that an immediate custodial term was the only 'appropriate sentence'. But he 'fell into error in reaching that conclusion', said Mr Justice Davis.

The judge reduced her jail term to eight weeks, who added that the term should have been suspended.

## Gym reopens after £120,000 revamp

A GYM has reopened after undergoing a £120,000 refurbishment. Smethwick Swimming Centre (SLT), in Thimblemill Road, will feature new gym equipment and a sauna, pools, dance studio and meeting rooms.

Paul Baddams, SLT's fitness development officer, said: "We are committed to enhancing customer experience. This equipment is the very latest in the industry."

# New chief drafted in to take charge of prison hit by riot

## Travellers are served eviction notice



A lorry winches a concrete slab into place at the playing fields off Angela Avenue in Rowley Regis

AN eviction of travellers took place after they cut down wooden bollards and gained entry to a park in the Black Country.

A total of three caravans got onto playing fields, located off Angela Avenue in Rowley Regis, before Sandwell Council blocked access to the site.

Travellers were handed a common law notice by high court enforcement officers - after they gained entry last Tuesday morning - to leave by 5pm the

same day. It is reported by council staff on the grounds that travellers cut down two bollards with chainsaws before they drove onto the site.

Police were also in attendance and they had received reports of criminal damage in relation to the bollards.

Sandwell Council parked a lorry outside the entrance to stop further travellers driving onto the land.

Bailiffs were called in by the council to evict the travellers after they

were alerted to the unauthorised encampment. They were removed under new powers brought in from January, which allows the council to evict travellers of council-owned land with 24 hours notice. A concrete slab was winched into by place to block access, and council officers said they were planning to create a grass embankment to boost security.

It is the second time in two years that travellers have invaded the park.

A TROUBLED West Midland jail - which saw hundreds of prisoners riot last year - has taken on a new chief. HMP Birmingham has appointed Richard Stedman as director.

Mr Stedman, previously the director at HMP Rye Hill near Rugby, takes control of Winson Green prison from outgoing chief Pete Small as it prepares to return to full operational capacity later this month.

The G4S-run prison reduced its capacity down to 990 after the riots but this month will return to 1,450.

Mr Stedman said: "HMP Birmingham has an experienced staff team with a very long history and tradition of courage, public service and pride in the prison. The team passionately believes in the possibility of reform for the men in their care and I am looking forward to building on innovations such as the UK's first prisoner on prisoner debating competition, held at Birmingham last summer."

### Disorder

"Birmingham is a busy, local prison and I will be focused on ensuring we successfully reopen the wings affected by disorder at the end of last year and return the prison to a path of continuous development and innovation."

He arrives at the prison with a favourable reputation after leading the successful re-purposing of Rye Hill in 2014 to become a category B sex offender only facility, the only one of its type in the country.

Outgoing director Mr Small said: "I am proud to have led the HMP Birmingham team over a period of significant change and in more recent times, some very difficult moments. I am confident that they will not be defined by the events of December 2016 but instead will push forward, grow and ultimately surpass the high expectations they set for themselves."

## Group starts search for best GP staff

SANDWELL and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has launched its General Practice Stars of 2017 awards.

These inaugural awards aim to showcase and celebrate the hard work and staff commitment in delivering good consistent patient care. Patients are encouraged to be involved with the process by nominating a GP or Nurse they believe deserves recognition.

Andy Williams, accountable officer, said: "I would encourage any patient who thinks their GP or nurse needs a special thank you, to nominate them for one of these prestigious awards. Just by being shortlisted for an award is a huge morale boost and honour for practice staff."

Nominations for the GP of the Year and Nurse of the Year awards close on Friday May 5. The awards ceremony will take place mid-June. For details visit: [www.sandwellandwestbhamccg.nhs.uk/gpawards2017](http://www.sandwellandwestbhamccg.nhs.uk/gpawards2017).

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



# Now I have to apply for imaginary tax disc!

BENJAMIN Franklin famously said: "In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes," but even so, I was a bit surprised to get a reminder for my car tax last week.

The reason being that my car reached its 40th birthday in May last year, meaning it should be exempt from road tax.

The DVLA no longer provides a telephone number on the renewal form to help with these queries – nobody seems to want to talk over the phone any more, everything has to be online – but after a bit of perseverance I eventually found the number.

After a quarter of an hour on hold, somebody eventually explained that I would have to go into a Post Office with all the documents, apply for a new log book, and when it comes back I will then be able to apply for an imaginary tax disc which will be issued free of charge.

AND I thought the idea of computers was to cut bureaucracy.

□ □ □

DO politicians ever learn? Exactly a year since the Government spent £9 million on leaflets telling us why we should vote to stay in the EU, they're at it again.

Last week glossy leaflets dropped through the letterbox telling us all about next month's election for a West Midlands mayor, or "Greater Birmingham" as they really see it, even if they won't say so. A battlebus is also touring the region, telling us why we should all turn out to vote.

Well, I'm sorry, but I will be making a point of not voting. As a dyed-in-the-wool Black Country mon I feel no affinity whatsoever with Birmingham, Coventry or Solihull. As far as I'm concerned, Birmingham – where the power will ultimately rest – is just as alien and remote as Westminster, and I'm heartily sick of the perception that anywhere between Warwick and Stoke is essentially a suburb of the second city.

Perhaps if the powers that be are really serious about devolving power to local communities, it might not be a bad idea asking them what they are before imposing it?

□ □ □

A NEW study shows that parents in the West Midlands are prepared to pay a £52,000 premium to live close to a school with an "outstanding" Ofsted inspection. PERHAPS that should not come as too much of a surprise. Most parents will want the best for their children, and you can't put a price on education, although I do wonder what happens to house prices when the schools are put into special measures a few years later.

# What pupils need is a dollop of commitment



Jeremy Corbyn aims to slap 20 per cent VAT on private-school fees



Victoria Coren Mitchell's fiendishly difficult quiz show has now been dis-connected



Jon Platt, the dad who dared to take his daughter to Florida in term time

# Teaching is not a free portion of pie

NOT sure about Jeremy Corbyn's plan to slap 20 per cent VAT on private-school fees and use the money to provide free lunches for kids in the state sector. Some parents scrimp and save to send their children to independent schools and probably have less disposable income than the parents of the kids Corbyn wants to feed. In any case, the real factor in teaching children is not a free portion of shepherd's pie, but a dollop of commitment. The kids who do well at school, whether public or state, are the ones who come from families or cultures where education is seen as a great gift.

THE latest Supreme Court ruling says you can't take kids out of school for term-time holidays but you can remove them for "religious observance." I am delighted to launch The Church of the Blessed Walt. A strict requirement of this faith is a two-week pilgrimage each year, in term time, to The Sacred Towers of Eurodisney.

NOW that the judges have come down like a ton of wigs on Jon Platt, the dad who dared to take his daughter to Florida in term time, can we expect a similar crusade against those traveller and gipsy families whose kids drift in and out of education, racking up some of the worst literacy and health levels in the Western world? Thought not.

TERMS for our time. Until this week I had never heard of pop-up brothels. Apparently they are set up for a few days or weeks in houses or flats hired from unwitting landlords, sometimes under the Airbnb system. And you thought that lovely American lady was taking Bible classes?

ANYWAY, I dare say pop-up brothels serve a certain sector of society. But as the babyboomers grow older and the whole UK population ages, where are the pop-up chiropractors, the pop-up bingo parlours and the pop-up den-

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



ture repairers? Knock three times and ask for Steradent.

A REPORT by the Police Superintendents' Association claims that 24-hour drinking, introduced by relaxing licensing laws in 2003, has led to a massive increase in alcohol-related crime in the early hours. Meanwhile, another report shows that throwing petrol on a fire does not extinguish it, and that bears, after a heavy meal, often head for forested areas.

GARDENER'S World has been extended to one hour on BBC2, swallowing the slot formerly held by Victoria Coren Mitchell's fiendishly difficult quiz show, Only Connect. After many weeks of being made to feel stupid in your own home, you will now be made to feel inadequate in your own garden.

AS you may have gathered, I firmly believe the population is divided not so much socially or politically but between two ancient and irreconcilable tribes: the optimists and the pessimists. So I am grateful to a new radio series, Glass Half Full (R4), for showing us that it is entirely possible for one clever doctor to be wildly optimistic about the future of personalised, gene-driven medicine, while the equally clever doctor next to him is deeply depressed about the coming global pandemic which will wipe out about one-fifth of humanity.

ORDER, order! The House of Lords has entered the row over television dramas with some peers complaining about 'mumbling' ac-

tors. Talk about pot and kettle. Have you ever watched and heard the House of Lords on telly? It is Mumbleland.

THE one thing everybody knows is that the Famous Five washed down their grub with 'lashings of ginger beer'. The truth, however, is that this classic phrase appears nowhere in Blyton's adventures.

FOR as long as I can remember, the experts have been predicting the return of the airship. How many times have we seen artists' impressions of giant silver slugs cruising over the clouds? Truth to report, I've only ever seen one in real life. Latest into the ring is an African-based company which is now promising to bring together US airship technology with vast reserves of helium gas in Tanzania. So that's blimps and squeaky voices.

IN the old days, airships were filled with highly inflammable hydrogen which produced some terrible disasters, notably the destruction of the Hindenburg at New Jersey in 1937. Helium is much safer. Helium is inert but hydrogen is ert. Very ert.

I'M not sure how the latest diesel-compensation scheme is expected to work. Encouraged by the Labour Government, millions of drivers bought diesel vehicles in the belief that they would save the planet from carbon dioxide. We are now told they kill 40,000 people a year through nitrogen dioxide pollution. Some cities are now proposing a 'toxins tax', to be paid by any diesel driver entering their patch. But Theresa May seems to be hinting that drivers may be offered financial help, but has not gone into any detail. The silliest possible solution, of course, would be for local council officials to tax motorists and Whitehall officials to hand the money back. So that couldn't happen...

## TALKING POINT



# The lowlife fly-tippers need to be binned off

FLY-TIPPERS are thoughtless near-detherals who must be pursued by the authorities with unrivalled vigour and forced to pay eye-wateringly high fines.

But I can't help wondering why fly-tipping is increasingly on such a rapid scale. It's becoming an epidemic.

How can there be so much rubbish dumped in these modern times when we are also supposed to be more environmentally aware, resolutely adhering to strict recycling rules, following our dogs around with plastic bags and reducing our carbon footprints to a toe prints?

Yet still our countryside and open spaces are being littered with everything from fridges, to mattresses with stinking big lorries pulling up and dumping their load.

Is there a Mr Big co-ordinating organised fly-tipping across the region? Or are there other factors which are leading the more moronic individuals in society to abandon legitimate means of waste disposal to dump their rubbish on any secluded spot of land they can find?

For example, the fact that many of our tips have had their opening hours reduced. Worryingly, there are discussions already under way to close sites in the Dudley and Wolverhampton boroughs to make way for new super tips. In Staffordshire, charges have recently been introduced at the tips for such items as tyres, soil and plasterboard.

On top of that collections are increasingly being reduced to fortnightly by councils, though we aren't getting bigger bins, and heaven forbid your whee bin should go walkabout because that is going to cost you!

Meanwhile we live in fear of bin-spectors who 'tag' our bins should a stray item appear in the wrong bin. I have had that walk of shame as I arrived home to see a red tag applied to my bin and the threatening letter warning that it will not be collected.

Thousands and thousands of pounds are spent by councils cleaning up after fly-tippers. How many staff hours must be cut or charges – £4.80 per tyre – collected for councils to come close to meeting these bills?

Clearly councils are not to blame for fly-tipping – that's down to the lowlife who think it is ok to litter our countryside with their unwanted tat – but the authorities are not helping and may well be making matters worse.

We law-abiding citizens pay our council tax and expect the tips to be open. We don't want to be hammered with additional charges. But we are losing out while our money is spent cleaning up after these lowlives.

Councils need to think how their cut-backs are adding to the problem. And it would be nice if the courts that deal with these mindless litterbugs hit them with breathtakingly high fines that could help meet the cost of keeping our tips open!

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## Tribute to club doctor Herbert Jones

FOLLOWING the sad news of the passing of local retired GP and former Halesowen Town FC club doctor Herbert Jones, who was with the club for over 30 years, I have written a small tribute.

To have a club doctor at non-league level of step three and below is unique and also to have someone of the experience, knowledge and human qualities.

The club doctor is not a normal practitioner, although medical expertise is indispensable. Club doctors need other qualities to be fully effective: passion, the ability to

talk on the same level as players and liking for football for the sporting environment, helping along with the physiotherapist, to ensure that the team performs to the very best of its abilities.

Doc Jones had all these qualities and more. He, myself and the rest of the back-room team and the managers he served, helped keep the show on the road for many years. That show is playing matches, fielding teams and hopefully winning.

**GAVIN BLACKWELL**  
Tipton

## Market days were better

I NOTE from The Chronicle, April 13, that Dudley market traders are unhappy with their contracts and feel that there is uncertainty over the future of Dudley Market.

We are and have been for many many years a market town and the people of Dudley are very proud of it.

I was born in Dudley in 1942 and must admit that it is very different from when I was a young girl growing up here, but many town and cities have seen the same changes and not always for the better.

Dudley Council seem to be spending a lot on improving the town so that it will attract visitors but it must remember that it must still attract the people who live here!

I for one would like to see the market remain but wish it could go back to how it used to be when you knew all the stall holders and they knew you too.

**CAROL BARNETT**  
via email

## Cash and cuts but no logic

RE page 2 (Dudley Chronicle, April 13) where we face losing nearly 500 teachers in the Dudley borough, then to page 13 where we see a £267m boost for schools creating a further 24,000 places in the region.

Forgive me but I fail to see any common sense here. Surely we need to concentrate on keeping the staff we have first, rather than create new classrooms but have no teachers to use them.

**B GUTTERIDGE**  
Dudley

## Put speed cameras inside signs

IT is a frequent complaint, isn't it? Speeding motorists who think with their right foot instead of their brains.

Years ago, speed cameras were fitted to try to control this 'disease' but the public rebelled and most were taken down. Now they are being re-introduced and the public is crying. Most of them have themselves to blame.

As my wife and I were waiting for a bus in Rangeways Road, Kingswinford, a car came down the road at least 50mph on a stretch of road with very clear 20mph signs because it is close to a school.

The answer to the problem is for the police to be devious and install cameras in the signs.

Bromley Lane is fairly straight, leading to a bad bend over a bridge. A speed restriction sign was installed that flashes if your speed is in excess of 30mph. Just drive along there and watch the brake lights.

**PETER COLE**  
Kingswinford

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

Dudley Chronicle,  
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## Both sides had used tricks in EU campaign

IN reply to Peter Simpkins letter regarding the famous 'Brexiteer poster'.

I know that there are still some people who are finding it difficult to accept the democratic will of the 'majority' who voted to leave the EU. Its true to say there were some claims on both sides that were spurious. Not least that we would plunge into recession.

I voted to leave as did many of my friends. None of us were 'influenced' by any inference that the NHS would receive a bonus. We

all understand how politics work. Politicians 'play up' the positive and 'play down' the negatives. Whatever you plan on supporting, its a good tip to remember that. I agree it was a clever trick but like all tricks we realised it was electioneering and take it with a pinch of salt. Even if we do suffer some set backs, and we probably will, it will be well worth it to get away from the unelected undemocratic gravy train that is the EU.

**STEVE NICHOLLS**  
via email

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# Boy bank robber stole £2,500 pretending to have a gun

**A 16-year-old boy hooked on heroin carried out three robberies at banks in Oldbury, telling cashiers he had a gun.**

The teenager got away with more than £2,500 from TSB and Barclays. He targeted the same cashier on two occasions, leaving her petrified. His crime spree was only halted when his father spotted him on a police appeal on Facebook. The three robberies were carried out in the space of just two weeks as the boy sought to feed his drug habit.

## Residents raise money for hospice

LIME Gardens Retirement Village in Halesowen have raised hundreds of pounds for the Mary Stevens Hospice with a residents' coffee morning.

Retiree Gordon Roberts organised the morning with donations of cakes made by fellow residents, Jill Roberts, Janice Edwards and a number of others, to raise funds in support of the Stourbridge hospice which cares for families who are impacted by life-limiting illnesses across the Black Country.

The group raised more than £450 through the sale of cakes and coffee, with the hospice also running a raffle at the event.

Organiser Mr Roberts, a Lime Gardens resident said: "It was a well-supported morning for a good local cause and we are looking forward to supporting the hospice again later in the year as we have chosen them as our Christmas charity."

A district judge at Wolverhampton Magistrates Court said he believed he would have continued to target banks had his father not called the police.

The boy, from Tividale, who cannot be named because of his age, walked into TSB on Birmingham Street on February 28, wearing a baseball cap and a hood. He approached the counter and passed a note to cashier ordering her to give him money as he had a gun. The teenager stood menacingly with a hand in his pocket, leading frightened workers to believe he really did have a weapon, when in reality he didn't.

The woman pressed her panic alarm and put £840 into a bag. She believed her ordeal was over but he returned 10 days later and this time got away with £1,240. Six days later, on March 15, he went into Barclays, in Church Square, where he passed a note to the female cashier warning he had a gun, and escaped with £450.

The first cashier, a mother-of-two, said the robberies had made her doubt whether she wanted to continue in her job.

Mr Frank Callier, defending, said: "He is a vulnerable young man with difficulties."

The youth, who pleaded guilty to a previous hearing, broke down in tears as he was sentenced to two years in detention. District Judge Michael Wheeler said he was not prepared let the boy off a custodial sentence as his crimes were so serious.

## Pub has goal to keep Albion fans' custom



Paul and Steven Hayer at the Hawthorns pub which is back open after a revamp

A POPULAR pub among West Bromwich Albion fans has reopened with a new look, following a refurbishment.

The future of The Hawthorns pub, on the Ross in Blackheath, was in doubt after being put up for auction a couple of months ago.

It was listed as 'suitable for a variety of alternative uses subject to obtaining any appropriate planning permission' but new owner Steven Hayer wants it to remain a hotspot for Baggies supporters, with a freshened up feel.

"We have refurbished the pub inside and we want to keep it as a local pub," said Mr Hayer. "So often you see pubs bought at auction and then planning permission going in straight away to turn the site into houses or apartments. We want the community and West Brom fans to come here and enjoy it."

"Thousands of pounds has gone into the refurbishment - it's been decorated, painted and will have a different, new look to it." Albion fans tend to visit the pub in large numbers on a matchday.

Mr Hayer, who purchased the pub for an undisclosed sum and will be running it, has pledged it will remain a pub as long as it can turn a profit, and is well-received by the community. "Hopefully we can get plenty of fans down here on a matchday, and regulars here as well," he said.

"We will have food at some point. We have spent money on the kitchen but we are still in the process of creating a menu and hiring a chef - it is very much on the agenda though."

## Carnival is gaining more sponsorship

AN ENGINEERING company has come to the assistance of this year's Halesowen Carnival after the event's bosses asked for sponsors.

Somers Forge Ltd donated a hamper to help raise funds to keep bringing the carnival and music festival to the town centre.

Councillor Stuart Henley who is chairman of the event arranged to collect the hamper from Somers, where Samson Folkes presented him with the hamper.

He said: "Anyone who would like to purchase a ticket for the small price of £1 each or if there is anyone who would like to sell tickets for us should get in touch with the committee at halesowencarnival@gmail.com

### Free

"We would like to hear from anyone who would also still like to sponsor or donate to our funds. The event is free entry."

"We have also been contacted by Nash Warren Insurance from Shell Corner, Halesowen, and they have also helped with cutting the costs of running the event by donating the insurance to hold the carnival. Also Sadlers Brewery are sponsoring the King and Queen, who will be named very soon."

"It is so good to have local companies coming forward and helping out."

## Concern 40mph limit is 'not low enough'

A SPEED limit reduction on la 'rat-run' has not gone far enough, says a councillor. The route between Stourbridge and Halesowen is now 40mph, dropping from the national limit. Changes were made over fears for cyclists and pedestrians on Wynall Lane South, Lutley Lane, Wassell Grove Road and Foxcote Lane. Councillor Tim Crumpton said the campaign to get the limit down to 30mph was 'unfinished business'.

### ADVERTISEMENT

## RESURGENCE of an old idea

has caught the attention of the British Dental Journal as the latest non-invasive system to secure oral prosthetics.

Traditionally, patients with flat gums - often the result of the natural ageing process - always present clinical challenges in the denture prescribing process and often implant stabilisation is the solution of choice.

But the Suction Cup System (not to be confused with suction valve dentures) is the latest hot news in denture provision and it's now available at the Denture Clinic in North Street, Dudley.

The science is borrowed from the octopus - its soft suckers, of which there are many on its tentacles, combining to create an extremely firm grip.



A 'new' non-invasive, cost effective process to improve the fit of new dentures

# Suction cup dentures

## 'Octopus' technology offers hope on stability problems

Cups for the dentures are moulded into a traditional-looking prescription using soft silicone rubber and can benefit upper and lower teeth. They are effectively micro suckers which can be built into the denture where the soft tissue contact area is likely to offer poor adhesion.

This process allows the technician to tailor the suction to match the patients gum shape and stability requirements.

For the tens of thousands of people

whose lifestyle is forever compromised by poorly functioning dentures that tilt, slip and slide, the Suction Cup System offers a potential solution without surgery.

There are many reasons that compromise denture retention, but the most common detrimental oral change is a wasting away of the normally raised gum profile that remains after teeth removal.

The end result is a significant decrease in denture base support and ability to retain

the prosthesis. While it is possible to surgically enhance the gum profile and/or place implants, not all patients are surgical candidates, or indeed, wish to be.

A clear indicator of whether dentures fit correctly is the amount of fixative used, how many times it needs to be reapplied during a day and critically, whether you have confidence in your teeth.

Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) (GDC 108353), principal of the clinic

which continues to attract patients from all over the UK and beyond, says: "We have tooled up for this new process and it's a great addition to a wide range of solutions already available at the Denture Clinic."

### Full potential

"Having our own laboratory, staffed with very talented technicians, allows us to explore the full potential of this revived technology, which was originally patented more than 100 years ago."

"We have thoroughly researched the process, and manufacturing these prosthetics with their multiplicity of tiny soft suction cups presents it's own challenges."

It does, however, deliver a new, non-invasive alternative for denture wearers. Many of whom present every week with

examples of how ill-fitting prosthetics have stopped them eating properly, eroded confidence compromised their lifestyle.

"The common problem is that the vital oral structures for normal denture retention have been lost and for those people these so-called 'octopus dentures' may offer a solution."

"We are very pleased to offer this treatment, but it must be made clear, that just like other suction denture solutions, it will not be suitable for everyone."

### Vanguard

So how does it work? A soft silicone lining is used to make the cups and under bite pressure a stabilising sucking vacuum is created to hold the dentures against the soft tissues of the mouth.

"Technology is advancing so rapidly and we are determined to keep on the very cusp of developments, so here we are again in the vanguard of delivering this treatment described by the manufacturers as 'a revolution in denture stability,'" adds Steven.

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# Can Dusty the beagle behave home and away?

**DUSTY** the dog who halted Halesowen Town's football match for more than seven minutes when he invaded the pitch has been sent to training school.

The beagle, who is owned by the club's 38-year-old defender Asa Charlton, darted about the grass as stewards, players and officials tried to catch him. He was eventually caught by owner Asa before the game against Skelmersdale United could resume.

Now Dusty has been taken to Dogs Trust Dog School in Kenilworth to learn how he can behave at home, and away.

Asa said: "It's important that I can keep my mind, and my eye on the game and not have to worry about Dusty running onto the pitch!"

## Cheering

"I'm hoping that visiting Dogs Trust Dog School will help us learn how we can make sure Dusty behaves at home - and when he's cheering me on from the side-line."

Dusty's antics on the pitch were filmed and went viral via the internet, delighting football fans and dog lovers.

One clip on YouTube has amassed more than 170,000 views since the incident took place earlier this month.

The game, which was being played in the Northern Premier League, ended 2-1 to Halesowen, so Dusty's intervention doesn't seem to have done the Yeltz any harm.

Asa added that he felt the need to take action as Halesowen Town had been about to go on a run of four consecutive away games.

"But thanks to the Dogs Trust Dog School, I'm confident Dusty will be welcomed back at The Grove when we host Nantwich Town on April 20, with



Asa Charlton with Dusty, who got loose onto the pitch during a Yeltz match



Dusty the beagle is just too fast for the players trying to catch him

everyone knowing that we're both going to be at the top of our game."

Dogs Trust Dog School trainer, Jennifer Protheroe, said: "Though Dusty is quite a unique case, basic recall is something many dogs struggle with but fortunately Dog School is on hand to help dogs and owner learn these important skills."

"Dog School is about making sure you develop a strong bond with your dog, understand his behaviour, and know how to react if things don't go according to plan, just like they did on Saturday!"

"But, we're hopeful with a bit of help that will be a distant memory."

The first lesson took place last week

as part of a five-week block for the curious canine.

Dusty invaded the pitch during the match which was played on April 1.

Players, stewards and match officials tried to get the pooch to stand still but he led them on a mazy run around the pitch until, finally, he was collared and led off into the stands.

Dogs Trust, formerly known as the National Canine Defence League, is an animal welfare charity and humane society in the United Kingdom which specialises in the well-being of dogs.

For more information visit [www.dogstrust.org.uk](http://www.dogstrust.org.uk)

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Flats proposed for town centre

UP to 33 flats could be built in Dudley town centre.

The properties have been put on the market with planning permission for conversion into 33 flats and three shop units.

The freehold properties from 75-79 High Street and 76-81 King Street have been put up for sale with Fifield Glyn Chartered Surveyors.

The advert says it is 'an opportunity to acquire an extensive property for development and investment purposes in the centre of Dudley town centre.'

Cannabis plants found during raid

MORE than 75 cannabis plants were found in a raid on a house on Bridgnorth Road, Stourton, near Stourbridge.

Officers also found 14 ounces of dried cannabis ready to be sold at a house following a tip-off.

A 61-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of production and cultivation of cannabis and abstraction of electricity. Inspector Giles Parsons, commander of South Staffs local policing team, said: "Thanks must go to the public, without their help today would not have been possible"

Home will replace former abattoir

THE demolition of an abattoir in order to construct a two-bedroom flat has been approved.

Dudley Council have given the green light for the application to tear down the now unused slaughterhouse at the rear of a row of retail units on Quarry Bank's High Street. It currently consists of a yard area plus single and two storey outbuildings.

Dudley planners granted permission, saying it would have 'a positive impact' on the character of the area.

Torture gang locked up

A GANG, who tormented an innocent man because they thought he was a burglar, holding him captive for almost 12 terrifying hours, have been jailed for a total of 25 years.

The victim was plied with drink at the Black Country Boxing Club in Lye before being viciously attacked when he refused to admit to burglary at the premises – an offence he had not committed, a jury heard.

"He was beaten and repeatedly assaulted by four people," Miss Sophie Murray, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court.

"He was kicked, stamped on and possibly stabbed in the leg."

The man, who lost consciousness several times during the ordeal, was stripped to the waist and tied to a chair.

The 25-year-old thought he was going to die as his head was repeatedly dunked in a container full of water and a Samurai sword was put to his throat, added the prosecutor.

Night

The attackers – Asa Cartwright, aged 30, his sister Charlotte, 23, Jak Skeldon, the 26-year-old son of the boxing club's owner, and Ricky Green, 29 – continued the beating throughout the night.

They then contacted Ashleigh Round, whose name was mentioned during the violence and knew the victim.

He went to the club where the man had now been forced into a pink onesie as a final humiliation by his tormentors.

Round, aged 25, drove the unconscious victim to the Hagley area, where he abandoned him in a country lane.

The man, who is not being named at the request of police, was found wandering barefooted and semi-conscious dressed in the onesie at Wassell Grove



Asa Cartwright, aged 30



Ashleigh Round, aged 25



Charlotte Cartwright, aged 23



Jak Skeldon, aged 26



Ricky Green, aged 29

at 9.30am on May 10, 2015, by a woman. She later told police: "He was just staring into space."

The attack is thought to have started around 10pm the previous evening. The victim had multiple cuts and bruises from 'head to toe' and was treated in hospital for several days.

He then had threatening phone calls warning him not to co-operate with the police investigation.

Miss Murray concluded: "This has had a significant impact on him and his family. There was intimidation and as a result they are moving out of the area."

Mr Colin McCarragher, defending, said: "It is difficult to understand how things got out of control so quickly and degenerated in the way they did."

Asa Cartwright, from Norfolk Road, Wollaston; Skeldon, of Holy Cross Lane, Belbroughton; and Ricky Green, of no fixed address, were convicted by a jury of false imprisonment and assault. Each was jailed for six years. Charlotte Cartwright, from Ashton Park Drive, Brierley Hill – the only defendant of previous good character – was found guilty of the same offences and locked up for four and a half years.



Black Country Boxing Club, Lye

The jury convicted Round, from Wynnall Lane, Stourbridge, of kidnapping and he was sent to prison for three years.

The defendants had denied all of the charges.

Afterwards, Black Country Boxing Club owner Roy Skeldon said: "I would hate any of this to reflect on the club, which has done a lot of good for the local community over the past six years."

"The people did not have permission to be there. If they did what the jury has convicted them of, they deserve all they got. I have hated bullies all my life."

CPR bid to save shopper is recognised

TWO Black Country men who brought a heart attack victim back from the brink of death have been awarded top national life-saving honours.

Sadly the woman died three days later but the pair and another security guard have been praised.

Bill Dawkins, 50, of Holly Hall, and Les Prosser, 63, of Brierley Hill, along with Martin Burgess, 29, from Derby have all been awarded Royal Humane Society Resuscitation Certificates.

The incident happened at around noon on July 11 last year at the Merry Hill Shopping Centre. A 75-year-old woman collapsed outside a Costa Coffee shop.

The three men, all security staff at the centre, immediately went into action. They spent 20 minutes administering cardiac pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and using a defibrillator in an attempt to save the woman, who was showing no vital signs. They succeeded in resuscitating her and the she was taken to hospital, where she survived for three more days.

Family

Royal Humane Society secretary, Dick Wilkinson, said: "They gave her three valuable extra days of life in which her family and friends would have had an opportunity to see her before she died. That in itself is a wonderful thing to have been able to do."

"West Midlands Police who put their names forward, said they believe that, but for the efforts of these three men, the woman would have died at the shopping centre."

No date has yet been fixed for presentation of the awards but it is expected to take place in the near future.

The society was founded in 1774 by two of the day's eminent medical men, William Hawes and Thomas Cogan. Their primary motive was to promote techniques of resuscitation. It awards non health care professionals who perform a successful resuscitation.

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# Horrific machete attack caught on CCTV camera

THIS is the horrific moment a machete gang launched a vicious attack on a man at a pub, leaving him seriously injured.

The footage shows the victim being chased outside the Old Crown Pub in Halesowen before falling to the floor and being set upon by a group of around five thugs. The silver blade of the machete carried by one of the gang is clearly visible.

The footage, lasting around 20 seconds, initially shows two attackers raining down blows on their victim.

Three more arrive within seconds, with one stumbling and falling as he launches the attack.

## Blade

The attacker with the machete stays at the scene briefly while he appears to examine the ground where the victim had been lying.

He then tries to tuck the blade into his trousers as he and the others flee the scene in different directions.

The victim, aged 22 and from Birmingham, was taken to hospital after the attack outside the Carters Lane pub at around 1.15am on March 25.

West Midlands Police described the gang as 'five or six black and white men', and said that they believed it was a 'targeted attack'.

A police spokesperson said: "We strongly believe that someone knows who did this and that someone will have information that could prove vital to our investigation."

"Anyone with information can contact DC Evans on 101 or via email [r.d.evans@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk](mailto:r.d.evans@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk)."

Alternatively, contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111, quoting crime number 20BW/61532J/17.

See video at [expressandstar.com](http://expressandstar.com)



The machete, circled, as the horrific attack is caught on CCTV camera



The Old Crown Pub in Carters Lane from where police say the victim fled

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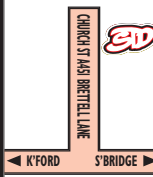
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# Team take on Banger and Cash challenge for hero Deb

A TEAM of fundraisers are taking on a mammoth charity challenge to help a woman who nearly drowned trying to save a nine-year-old boy.

The group of 12 are all members of Stourbridge Rugby or Stourbridge Lawn Tennis and Squash Club.

Hero Deb Drew was previously Vice-Chair of the tennis club. Her life was turned upside down when in August 2014 she went to the aid of a boy who got into difficulties swimming at Woolacombe Beach.

## Performing arts school on the way

PLANS for a multi-million pound music performance school have been approved in Brierley Hill.

The school proposed at Cable Plaza, Waterfront West, was given the green light at a meeting of Dudley Council's development control committee last week. It will provide 600 places and 44 jobs.

Higher education and post graduate music courses will be taught at the performance school, with students being able to benefit from facilities including practice rooms, recording studios, a radio station and live music venue, alongside accommodation, a library, a lecture theatre and classrooms.

It will give students the chance to gain fully-accredited degrees in performance, production, education, management and composition.

Dudley Council is contributing £25,000 with other funds from the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership and private partners.

Deb had been bodyboarding with her two sons at the popular Devon beach when she attempted to save the child. Both the boy and Deb were unconscious when they were pulled from the water and flown by RAF helicopter to North Devon District Hospital.

The youngster is thought to have made a 'near full recovery'. But former pharmaceutical firm rep Deb had suffered a cardiac arrest. She was later transferred to Russells Hall Hospital but remained in a coma for months.

### Rehabilitation

The 51-year-old is on a long road to recovery and is cared for at a rehabilitation centre in Hall Green, Birmingham. She now needs a special wheelchair and the fundraising group, who call themselves 'The Voters', led by Steve Simmonds, want to raise around £15,000 to help buy the chair, that will also help her stand.

Their 'Bangers & Cash' challenge in May will see them climb Mount Snowdon, swim Bala Lake and then cycle to Liverpool in just three days using old cars bought for under £500 to travel around in. The bangers will be sold on completion of the challenge and added to the money raised.

Mother-of-two Deb said it is 'absolutely fantastic' what The Voters are doing to help. Visit [www.local-fund-raising.com](http://www.local-fund-raising.com) to donate.

## Tributes to DJ found dead aged 31



Drum and bass DJ Adam Tombs, aka DJ Toomz, has died aged 31

TRIBUTES have been paid tribute to a popular DJ who died suddenly, aged 31.

Adam Tombs, also known as DJ Toomz, was found dead in his bed by his girlfriend Kim Parton on Saturday afternoon at his home in Stourbridge.

The highly regarded drum and bass DJ was a familiar face in venues across Stourbridge, regularly holding sold out shows. Mr Tombs, who started DJing at the age of 15, would promote High Voltage - a drum and bass night at venues including The Picture House on Hagley Road, Moochers on New Road and Fitness Factory on Bradley Road.

His mother, Christine Goodall, aged 55, said her son will be "sorely missed."

She added: "We're slowly having to come to terms with what has happened. We're heartbroken and numb. He was too young to die. We haven't stopped crying, it's devastating."

"He had a very good sense of humour - very dry and witty. He had a heart of gold and he'd do anything for anyone and he was loved by lots of people."

"He'll always be remembered by his drum and bass friends. His heart and soul was in being a DJ."

Mrs Goodall said he died peacefully in his sleep and had no underlying health conditions which the family were aware of.

His former partner Sally Evans, 29, lived with Mr Tombs for three-and-a-half-years and she says her five-year-old daughter, Leyla, was brought up by Mr Tombs as a father figure.

She said: "He was very kind, he had a good heart and really good sense of humour. We remained on good terms."

Mr Tombs worked as a mechanic at Castle Road Motors, alongside his grandad, mother and brother, Glen, at the family run business.

## Fewer signing up as hi-tech apprentices

FEWER than 100 young people in the Black Country have registered to start higher level apprenticeships this year, new Government figures have shown.

Across the region 90 people aged under-25 have signed up for top level apprenticeships at Level 4, with just 10 registering in both Wolverhampton and Walsall.

In Sandwell the current figure is 30, while 40 people are registered in Dudley. In the West Midlands as a whole the total number is 210.

The figures have prompted business leaders to urge the Government to prioritise top-level apprenticeships in order to prevent the region's economy from being held back.

Labour's candidate for West Midlands Mayor Siôn Simon says Whitehall should allow the region to determine its own apprenticeship budget in a bid to increase the number of opportunities available.

Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership member Ninder Johal, said: "When apprenticeships were relaunched a few years ago it took a while for employers to get their heads around the system."

### Accepted

"They have now been almost universally accepted as one of the best ways to train young people in a number of professions."

"However, when it comes to newer, higher level apprenticeships we are almost back at square one."

"It is important to recognise that with the rise of the robots, there are fewer and fewer lower skilled jobs."

"It means training programmes at Level 4 are increasingly important if we are going to match supply with demand. "The Government urgently needs to get this message across and start making top-level apprenticeships a priority."

Last month the Government rejected apprenticeship funding bids from 13 colleges in the West Midlands.

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# Top dog Izzie is flying high with young Hannah

ONE girl and her dog are heading to Luxembourg – as the talented duo compete in a junior European championships for dog agility.

Hannah Thorp, aged 15, from Tipton, started training three years ago but has now developed to grade seven, the highest championship grade in dog agility.

The RSA Academy pupil, who has scooped around 50 awards so far, qualified for the Young Kennel Club Agility Team GB in October and is due to compete in the championships with her two-year-old dog Izzie in July.

The youngster, who recently competed at Crufts and came fifth, trains at Fast Forward Dog Training which has training grounds in Willeshall and Shreshill.

Mother Lisa Thorp said she was extremely proud of Hannah.

“She’s done it all herself and spends a lot of time with Izzie training her,” she said. “It all just started for fun in the beginning.

“She’s always had a passion for dogs and she enjoyed it so much that we got in touch with Fast Forward where they have helped Hannah get where she is today. She does it all herself.

Hannah has had Izzie, a collie cross miniature poodle, since she was a puppy.

Lisa added: “Hannah is so excited to go and compete in Luxembourg. We’ll be going along with her for support too.

“It all ties in with her future plans too – she wants to go into a career to do with animal behaviour.”

Anyone who wants to sponsor Hannah can contact lisathorp2008@aol.com



Hannah Thorp, aged 15, from Tipton, with her dog ‘Izzie’ at Brookfields Equestrian Centre

# Entertainers line up for mayor’s charities

ENTERTAINERS from the Black Country are teaming up in aid of the Mayor of Dudley’s charities.

Dudley Folk will be held at Cable Plaza, Waterfront West in Brierley Hill on Saturday, May 6, and included in the line up are The Boonyeds, two fictional factory workers with a comedic view on the world.

Also performing will be So It Goes which combines the poetic and songwriting talents of Tipton-born author Brendan Hawthorne, now Poet laureate of Wednesbury, and Kerry Halford, a singer/songwriter from Dudley.

Also appearing will be Grand Valaise, John Langford, David Coughlin and Good Traditions.

Councillor Mohammed Hanif, Mayor of Dudley, said: “I would like to thank all of the performers who have agreed to spend their time with us to help raise money for my three deserving charities.”

The event starts at 3pm. For tickets or details call Sue on 07412 531924 or emailing suzylimesdc@hotmail.co.uk or B.DAKIN@Aston.ac.uk, and profits from the event will be donated to the Mayor’s charities, Friends of Alfie Johnson, Dudley CIL and Diabetes UK Dudley.

# Mixed ward breaches due to bed shortages

MEN and women had to share wards at a Dudley hospital due to bed shortages.

There were 26 ‘mixed sex breaches’ recorded on 18 separate occasions at Russells Hall Hospital in January as the unit struggled to cope with demand.

Health chiefs stressed there were no care or safety risks to patients as a result of putting men and women together in the same ward.

The hospital is recovering from a hugely challenging winter which has seen record numbers filing into A&E. Bed blocking has also been at an all-time high at Russells Hall.

Details of the breaches have been revealed in a board report of the Dudley Group NHS Trust, which runs the hospital.

It stated: “The trust recorded 26 cases of mixed sex breaches on 18 separate occasions in January due to the demand for inpatient beds.

**Assurance**

“The committee had gained assurance that there had been no quality or safety of care issues and no risks to patients.”

Bosses were forced to issue an urgent plea for people not to attend unless they had a serious condition over the Christmas period due to extreme pressure on services.

Trust chief executive Diane Wake, who took over the top role earlier this month, said men and women are only put on the same wards when necessary.

She said: “The trust reported 26 breaches in

By Richard Guttridge

January 2017 against the single-sex accommodation rules. Breaches occurred due to the demand for inpatient beds.

“We have the necessary facilities, resources and culture to ensure that patients who are admitted will only share the room where they sleep with members of the same sex, and same-sex toilets and bathrooms will be close to their bed area.

“Sharing with members of the opposite sex will only happen when clinically necessary – for example where patients need specialist equipment such as in the critical care unit – or when there is a high demand for inpatient beds.”

New chief executive Ms Wake joins the trust as experts say the pressure should begin to ease on hospitals as we head into summer.

Ms Wake added: “Together with my executive team, we will ensure that hospital services continue to perform among the best in the country, and are sustainable longer term.”

# Bus group to invest £600k on its depot

BUS group Rotala is to invest £600,000 in improving its depot at its headquarters in the Black Country.

Chairman John Gunn said the investment would enable the company, which owns Diamond Bus, to more than double the number of buses it can operate from its Tividale depot at Hallbridge Way, off Tipton Road.

The group gained additional depot capacity in the West Midlands through an acquisition in 2013. It sold a four-acre depot in Long Acre, Birmingham, in December 2015, for £2.5 million.

It bought three acres of land on a site adjacent to the depot in Tividale giving the group a combined 6.7-acre freehold site for its operations. The land cost £380,000 and it brought with it a substantial building suitable for conversion into Rotala’s centre of bus operations for the whole West Midlands. “We intend to invest about £600,000,” said Mr Gunn.

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# Bid to build homes on green belt site is causing concern

**UP to 35 homes could be built on green belt next to a former garden centre in the Black Country.**

The development would be next to the old Two Gates garden centre but risks causing controversy as it wants to be considered as a special case to build on a green belt site, between Wollescote and Cradley.

Developers IDCM say the site on Oldnall Road has been subject to vandalism and arson attacks and would benefit from being taken over.

## Hospital bring in expert on halal food

AN EXPERT is to be brought in at Sandwell Hospital to review its halal food following concerns about its menu. The hospital has been urged to do more to increase the quality of meals on offer.

Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust, which runs Sandwell General as well as City Hospital, want professional advice on what should go on the menu. It comes after the trust was criticised in November over the quality of halal meals on offer to patients.

Waseem Zaffar, who sits on the board, previously said he was unhappy about the lack of progress to improve the halal options at the hospital.

Trust chief executive Toby Lewis, revealed at the latest board meeting he had 'commissioned a halal expert' following the criticisms.

After the meeting, he said: "Based on patient feedback, and at the request of our trust board, we are taking professional advice."

They insist their plans would make good use of land, which has been left disused for years, and ease concerns of neighbours.

But Wollescote's Councillor Richard Body said he was not in favour of seeing green belt land disappear.

The land is classed as green belt but the developer has pointed out there are derelict buildings on part of the site and other buildings have previously been on the site.

Between 25 and 35 homes would be built on the site, some of which are being described as 'affordable', if the plans get the go-ahead from Dudley Council.

The developer has urged planning bosses to consider the site 'in separation from how true green belt lands are viewed'.

### Generations

But Councillor Body said: "I don't believe we should be building on our green belt. It should be kept for generations to come. It's green belt for a reason."

A planning statement submitted with the application said: "The lands have had numerous buildings built on it before and still have the remains of derelict buildings. After talking with local residents they view this land as a residential boundary barrier to Oldnall Road. There is currently a large amount of vandalism, drug taking and fires started on the site."

## Kinks musical rocks the Grand



Mark Newnham (as Dave), Ryan O'Donnell (as Ray), Garmon Rhys (Pete) and Andrew Gallo (Mick) Photo Kevin Cummins

**Sunny Afternoon.**  
**Wolverhampton Grand Theatre**  
AWARD-WINNING jukebox musical Sunny Afternoon rocked the audience out of their seats at the Grand Theatre with its story of top 60s group The Kinks, focussing on the battling brothers Ray and Dave Davies.

From the West End production, Ryan O'Donnell as the more sensitive Ray was the calm, if sometimes conflicted, centre of this colourful and energetic show. It helps that he looks similar to the Kinks frontman and

has a strong singing voice. Most of the laughs came from Mark Newnham as younger bruv Dave, a rebellious randy teen who at one point swings from a chandelier. His naughty boy persona and floppy hair brought to mind Kathy Burke's Perry.

The band, completed by Andrew Gallo as Mick Ivory and Garmon Rhys as Pete Quaife, play the instruments themselves, and charming singer Lisa Wright plays Ray's wife Rasa.

The other characters are broad stereotypes, there is not much plot – the

usual band ripped off story – and the songs illustrate various triumphs and tribulations. But what songs! They include probably the finest English rock song in You Really Got Me and the finest English pop song in Waterloo Sunset. With songs like this it can't fail.

In a poignant moment after the encore, actor Mark Newnham revealed to the audience that he has a hereditary brain disorder and a collection was held for the Huntington's Disease Association. Sunny Afternoon is at the Grand until Saturday. **LB**

## Wonderbox new play from actress Danica

ACTRESS Danica Corns is heading home to reveal her new play to a West Midland audience following a sell-out debut in London. Danica, aged 25, from Wednesbury, developed the hard-hitting comedy after co-founding her own theatre company Wonderbox with fellow actresses from the National Youth Theatre.

Entitled A Womb of One's Own, the production is described as 'a dark comedy that follows a university student as she navigates her way through new-found independence and not-so-steamy sexual encounters only to board the emotional rollercoaster that is an unwanted pregnancy.'

The Wonderbox team produce, write and perform their own original work.

A former member of Stage2 Youth Theatre in Birmingham, Danica said: "We all know acting is a tough industry to break into – and I'm not the sort of person to just sit around and wait for auditions to come in – so I decided to form my own theatre company as a way to stay creative."

The former Wood Green High School and Sandwell Academy pupil chose Birmingham for their first regional performance which is at The Old Joint Stock Theatre on May 10.

Tickets for the play are £10 and available at oldjointstock.co.uk/whatson/a-womb-of-ones-own

## Two schools' old boys set for reunion dinner

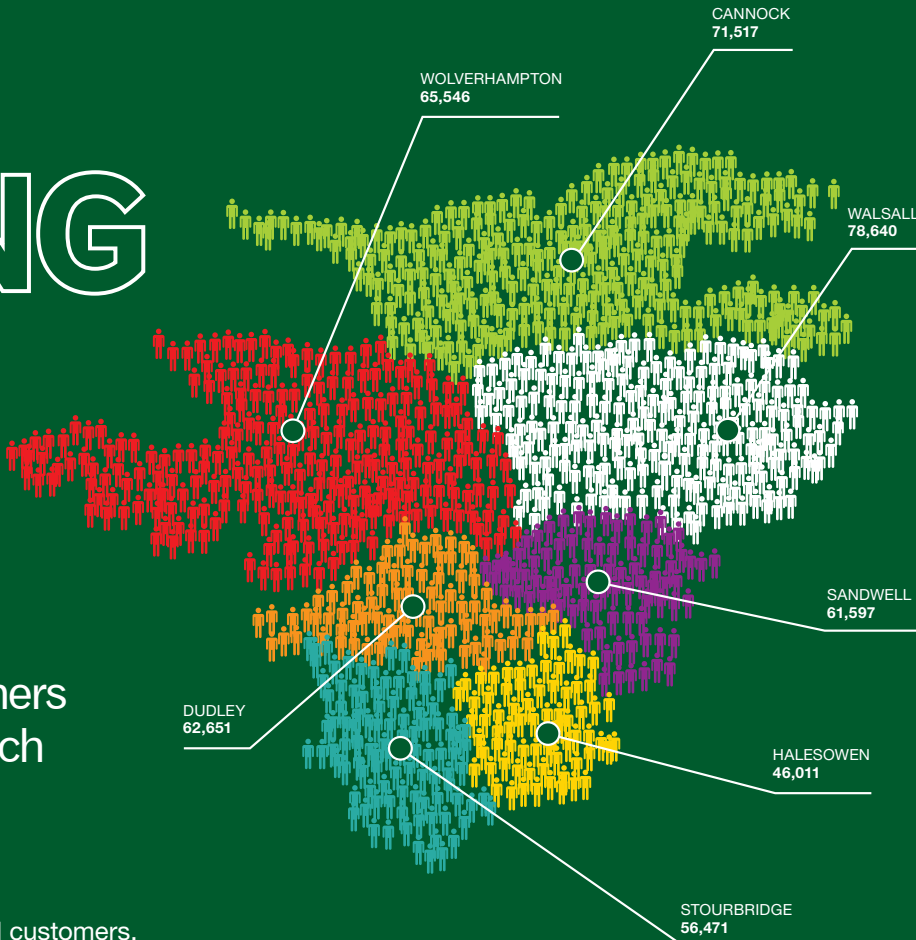
THE details of the annual two schools' Old Boys Association reunion dinner have been announced. Ex-pupils from Holly Lodge Grammar and James Watt Technical Schools in Smethwick are invited. The pals, who meet annually, raised over £1,000 for charity last year. The reunion is at The Tally Ho, Conference & Banqueting Centre, Pershore Road in Birmingham on May 12. Tickets are £32. Call Martin Baines on 01562 886275 by April 28.

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# 16 Donation helps youth theatre to launch careers

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, April 20, 2017

A £1,000 donation from a regional house building firm is set to help members of a successful Wolverhampton-based youth theatre get their professional acting careers under way.

Central Youth Theatre, which has been running for more than 30 years in the city, recently launched a new group, ForeFront, aimed at providing people aged over 18 with the necessary skills to launch an acting career.

Persimmon Homes West Midlands was so impressed with the group's work that it was chosen to receive a match-funding donation through the builder's successful Community Champions scheme.

Holly Parry, spokeswoman for the Central Youth Theatre, said: "Last autumn, we created ForeFront for CYT members with the aim of giving members aged over 18 skills in project and company management.

"It was also identified that, to do this, they needed to learn a variety of professional skills. Therefore, we were seeking funding to provide a series of professional training workshops in such areas as audition techniques, film and TV casting and arts administration.

"We cannot thank Persimmon Homes enough for their support, as this project will allow us to help young people at a pivotal moment in their theatre life and give them the skills needed to enter into a professional career."

## Pub fundraiser to have extra bounce

A BOUNCY discodome, rodeo bull and go-karts are among the attractions at a fund-raising fun day at a Willenhall pub on Sunday, April 30 from noon onwards.

Leanne Fisher, landlady at the United Kingdom Inn, has organised a day of music and entertainment to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Other attractions at the pub in Bloxwich Road North will include live music from local bands as well as DJ sets from MC Shine. There will also be a bouncy castle and assault course and raffle.



Colin Hamilton from Liverpool with a replica of Lancia Group A rally car



Craig Clee and Karen Elwell from Coseley in a modified Toyota Hilux



Alan Moreton and his father Trevor with a camper they built from a Ford Mondeo



Getting in focus- Elwood and Jake from the Blues Brothers

# Cars are the stars

**PETROLHEADS turned out in force to Weston Park over the Easter holiday for the annual Motorfest.**

Around 1,700 vehicles were on display at the attraction on the Shropshire/Staffordshire border, spanning 80 years of driving joy.

The two-day motoring extravaganza kicked off at the weekend with

more than 70 local car club members representing their vehicles of choice.

There were displays from BMW Car Club, Jaguar Enthusiasts Club and Mercedes-Benz, alongside classic American cars, custom cars, 4x4s, motorcycles and commercial vehicles of the past.

As usual the grounds of the stately home near Shifnal were also packed with stalls selling motoring memo-

rabilia for enthusiasts. But this year the celebration aimed to appeal to all the family, not just the die-hards, with new live music features, shopping stalls and Easter activities, including fun fair rides.

Retro girl band The Glamophones sung the songs of the 1940s and 1950s on Sunday, while The Quik Beats played the sounds of the 1960s and there was an Easter egg hunt.



Another splendid vintage machine on display in the grounds of Weston Park

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Fennessy joins the herd at safari park



Fennessy, who is just over 12 weeks old, is pictured standing alongside his mother, Arusha, at the safari park. A BABY giraffe has been out enjoying the sunshine in the grounds of West Midland Safari Park with his mother.

Fennessy, who is just over 12 weeks old, is pictured standing alongside his mother, Arusha, who is aged five.

The calf is a rare Rothschild's giraffe, currently listed as endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

Fennessy became the third baby welcomed into the herd within six months, alongside Embu and Emali.

He was named after Dr Julian Fennessy and his family, who founded the charity Giraffe Conservation Foundation, which is carrying out work with the park near Kidderminster.

Dr Fennessy said he and his family were 'elated' to have a baby giraffe named after them.

With a PhD on the ecology of the desert-dwelling giraffe in northwest Namibia, Dr Fennessy is also co-chair of the IUCN SSC Giraffe and Okapi Specialist Group.

# Hate row erupts in the council chamber

**FURIOUS UKIP councillors stormed out of a council meeting after the party was accused of 'spreading hate, fear and division'.**

The council chamber drama happened after Dudley UKIP councillor Star Anderton urged the council to condemn anti-semitism.

That had call had appeared to unite all parties at the council house until Labour's Councillor Shaukat Ali criticised UKIP.

He welcomed the move but said he was surprised it was UKIP which had put the idea forward. His comments sparked outrage among the UKIP councillors, the council's third biggest party.

## Disgusted

UKIP Group leader Councillor Paul Brothwood said he was 'disgusted' and walked out of the full council meeting along with UKIP MEP and Sedgley councillor Bill Etheridge.

Councillor Brothwood called for Councillor Ali to be suspended along with the Mayor, Councillor Mohammed Hanif, and chief executive Sarah Norman, for not intervening.

Councillor Anderton had said she wanted anti-semitism to be recognised in the same way as racism,

By Richard Guttridge

and taken as seriously. Several spoke in support of the motion, including council leader Labour's Pete Lowe in what appeared would be a harmonious discussion - until Councillor Ali said: "It is the party responsible for spreading hate, fear and division bringing this motion."

After the meeting, Councillor Brothwood said: "I have called for the chief executive, mayor and Councillor Ali to be suspended."

"They should have intervened and put a stop to it."

"It is not fair for my councillors to feel intimidated by rogue members of the Labour Party."

"I have written to Councillor Pete Lowe calling for him to withdraw the whip from Councillor Ali. Until he does we will not be working with the Labour group."



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# 18 Regeneration takes a major step forward

Halesowen Chronicle  
Thursday, April 20, 2017

ONE of the largest city centre regeneration opportunities in Europe has taken a major step forward following the appointment of leading real estate company Cushman & Wakefield to draw up the master plan for a Birmingham site.

The city council has appointed the company to lead the development of the 14-hectare Smithfield market site, home of the city's wholesale market.

The vision for Birmingham Smithfield is for a landmark, sustainable, mixed use development including a family and leisure hub. It will include a vibrant market and leisure hub, supported by independent retailers, restaurants and hotels, a lively public square, a wide pedestrian boulevard allowing people to easily access other parts of the city, integrated public transport and a residential neighbourhood offering modern, sustainable homes in a green setting.

Cushman & Wakefield will be working to evolve the plan with Birmingham City Council and launching the search for a delivery partner.

Designated an enterprise zone in 2012, the regeneration of the site will act as a catalyst for the transformation of Birmingham's wider Southern Gateway Area.

Development of the site is expected to deliver over 300,000 sq metres of new floor space, 2,000 new homes and 3,000 new jobs and an investment value of more than £500 million.

The current wholesale city market will be relocated to The Hub in Witton later this year, a purpose-built facility specifically designed to meet the requirements of the UK's largest combined wholesale food market.

David Tonks, head of Cushman & Wakefield's Birmingham office, said: "The Smithfield market site is one of the key regeneration opportunities in Europe and a rare chance to rejuvenate 14 hectares of land within the heart of the city centre. The site is well placed to capitalise on the rich history of the area with close proximity to the city's world class retail offer, the creative and knowledge hub and the future High Speed 2 terminus.

"This is an exciting time for Birmingham which is currently experiencing an unprecedented period of change."

## Ladies on track for smartening up their stations

TWO Birmingham women are showing their pride in the city and supporting their railway by greening up not just one but two London Midland stations.

Vivienne Wilkes and Diane Shirley, from Hall Green, joined London Midland's Adopt a Station scheme in 2016, adopting Yardley Wood station on the Snow Hill route.



Viv Wilkes, London Midland's Ian Taylor, and Diane Shirley

Thanks to their endeavours, the garden plots at the entrance to each platform were transformed with shrubs and spring bulbs. Now the expert gardening duo and long-time friends, who are also volunteer gardeners at Sarehole Mill, have turned their attention to the next stop on the line, Hall Green, and have created a pretty wildflower garden on Platform 2.

The plants, sponsored by London Midland, include yarrow, calendula and yellow daisy, and will provide a colourful welcome for customers as well as helping to sustain bees and birds.

To recognise Vivienne and Diane's support for the stations, Ian Taylor, London Midland's customer service manager for Dorridge/Stratford Lines, met them at Hall Green to present them with two engraved 'Adopt a Station' plaques, which will be installed at each station.

Brenda Lawrence, London Midland's head of route for Snow Hill services, said: "Vivienne and Diane are great examples of the pride and commitment shown by our adopters and we are delighted to have them as part of the London Midland team."

## Legal expenses bid by chamber

THE Black Country Chamber of Commerce has a new and improved legal expenses insurance package for members. This new cover started last week and has already been well-received by local businesses.

Mark Timmins, managing director at Timmins Whitaker, said: "Going back to when we first partnered with the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, we knew that whilst the previous Members Legal Expenses policy had provided vital support to local businesses in the past, there was room for improvement that we could address."

Corin Crane, chief executive of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, added: "I would encourage everyone to take some time to see what they now get for free as part of the Chamber membership."

For more information regarding the new service, contact the Black Country Chamber of Commerce on 0330 024 0820 or visit [www.blackcountrychamber.co.uk](http://www.blackcountrychamber.co.uk)

## Thousands turn out to mark most significant day in Sikh history



Vaisakhi celebrations drew thousands to Walsall town centre



The streets were alive with colour as worshippers gathered



The Dudley procession Photo: West Midlands Police

# Streets bathed in brightness as Vaisakhi parades take place



This youngster is getting into the spirit of the special day



Youngsters are held aloft amid all the noise and celebrations



Swords also play a part in the ritual of the occasion



Traditional flags are carried as music is played

## Thousands of Sikh worshippers celebrated Vaisakhi with colourful processions through the Black Country.

Between 4,000 to 5,000 people were expected to take part in the Walsall procession marking the religious festival which dates back hundreds of years.

Worshippers turned the streets bright orange as they made their way from the Guru Nanak Gurdwara Sahib Walsall temple, on West Bromwich Street, to Nanaksar Gurdwara temple, on Wellington Street, and Pleck and Darbar Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji temple, on Rollingmill Street.

Drummers led the procession, as is tradition, and they were followed by sword bearers, Khalsa flag bearers and a float carrying

### Report by Jamie Brassington

[jamie.brassington@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:jamie.brassington@expressandstar.co.uk)

the Sikh holy book, the Sri Guru Granth Sahib.

Amardeep Mahal, aged 25, from Walsall, who helped to organise the procession, said the day was about 'getting the community together and celebrating the birth of the Khalsa'.

He added: "It is also to converse the main concepts of Sikhism. Everyone is welcome to take part regardless of where they come from or who they are."

"The procession was really good. Lucky the weather held off too."

The celebration marks the anniversary of the initiation of the first five members of the brotherhood of the Khalsa on April 13, 1699 – one of the most significant dates in Sikh history – as well as ushering in spring.

Councillor Allah Ditta, who represents

Palfrey ward, praised the work of the Sikh community.

He added: "I think it is very nice that all the community can come together – as part of the festival. The Sikh community do very well to integrate all societies."

The colours of Vaisakhi are traditionally orange and yellow. They represent the spirit of rebirth and sacrifice of the Khalsa, but the colours also represent joy and celebration.

Meanwhile there were similar scenes across the Black Country in Blakenhall, Wolverhampton which has hosted the celebration for more than two decades and through Dudley town centre.

In Wolverhampton, it started at 9am with a prayer service before thousands of worshippers began to assemble outside the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara on Duncan Street. They set off from the temple at 11.30am and carried on the procession for

nearly two hours taking in Baggot Street, Bromley Street, Dudley Street and Wolverhampton Road among a host of other avenues. The event eventually came to a close around 3pm.

The city has already hosted vibrant celebrations with thousands taking part at the event at the Gurdwara in Well Lane, Wednesfield on Sunday, April 9.

And things are set to continue over the coming weeks.

Today, Wolverhampton South East MP Pat McFadden was set to host the celebrations in Parliament from the Speakers' Skate Rooms.

He will be joined by pupils from The British Sikh School on Wolverhampton Road East. They will be performing a 'Kirtan' – a special performance of hymns from the holy book the Guru Granth Sahib.

On Sunday, May 14, there will be an all-day event at West Park.

# Survey says noise annoys in Dudley din

DUDLEY has been declared the noisiest place to live in the Black Country. And the noisiest part of the borough is Wordsley, according to a survey.

Known as the traditional heart of the glassmaking industry, when it would have been a hive of activity, Wordsley has now been labelled as one of the noisiest places to live for all the wrong reasons. According to the new survey noisy neighbours, barking dogs and traffic are to blame for the din.

Of the 308 areas surveyed, Dudley finished highest on the list in 74th. South Staffordshire was 200th and Wolverhampton finished 253rd.

But many have rubbished the results, including Wordsley's Councillor Paul Brothwood. He was surprised by the findings. He said: "Really? In terms of crimes it's the best in the borough. So to hear this is very surprising."

"I only very occasionally have such cases

pointed out to me – it's not on the top list of cases I have to deal with on a regular basis I must admit."

"We have excellent anti-social behaviour services in the area."

The data, from figures supplied by councils, included the number of noise complaints reported in the last two years as well as the source of the noise, approximate location, and the outcome of the investigation.

In the Dudley council area, there were

six complaints per 1,000 people last year, totalling 1,900, and that's 222 more than the previous year. Noisy neighbours were the biggest offenders making up nearly a third of all complaints. Loud music, commercial noise, dogs barking, noisy vehicles and alarms were also on the list.

Top five 'nuisance' areas in Dudley were Wordsley, Wollaston and Stourbridge, Upper Gornal and Woodseton, St Thomas and St James.



# Oldbury Viaduct – M5 junctions 1-2

## Major roadworks start after Easter.

**If you use this road, your journey will be affected.**

**After Easter, Highways England will be starting a major concrete repair and waterproofing scheme on the M5 Oldbury Viaduct between junctions 1 and 2.**

The structure of the viaduct is safe but intervention is required now to repair the damaged sections in order to prevent bigger challenges and further disruption in the future. Once complete, customers will benefit from a safer and more resilient route.

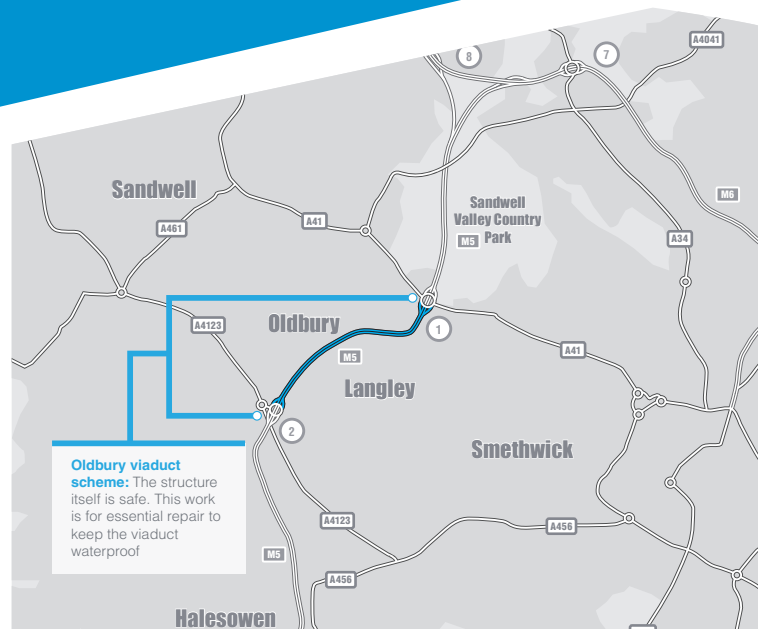
To keep this vital route open we will be using different phases of traffic management starting with a reduction to 3 narrow lanes and 40mph speed limit between junctions 1 and 2. We will do everything possible to plan and manage our roadworks to keep traffic moving. However there will be some disruption to the M5 and routes leading into and out of these junctions.

**To help you can:**

- **plan your journey**
- **take the bus, train or Midland Metro**
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- **work from home**
- **avoid rush hour**

**For more information:**

**visit [www.highways.gov.uk/Oldburyviaduct](http://www.highways.gov.uk/Oldburyviaduct)**







Flying Officer Tommy Tinsey, DFC, while filming at RAF Rednal



The Gladiator on display at Cosford appeared in a 1943 movie filmed in Shropshire



Borradaile checking the camera in the tail of a Wellington bomber

# Mystery of lost war film

Report by Toby Neal

**TWISTING** and turning in the skies, these biplanes were the stars of a movie created by some of the greatest talents of the golden age of cinema, bringing home the drama and heroism of an epic and largely forgotten aerial battle.

Based at a Shropshire airfield, the film crew overcame technical challenges and unexpected dangers – such as being fired at by friendly anti-aircraft artillery – to shoot spectacular aerial footage.

And almost 75 years later, one of those movie stars has made a return to Shropshire, looking as good as new. It is Gloster Gladiator serial number K8042, one of a number of biplanes that were used in the making of the movie *Signed With Their Honour*. It is a recent arrival at the RAF Museum at Cosford.

*Signed With Their Honour* was based on a book of that name by Australian war correspondent James Aldridge, which told the story of the air war in Greece in 1941, when a handful of outdated Gloster Gladiators fought the might of the Luftwaffe in a six week delaying action until the single British squadron was wiped out.

To take part in the movie, experienced RAF pilots were given a “rest holiday” after two or three years’ of continuous operational flying. Among them was a decorated Gladiator pilot who had been in the thick of the battle during the Greece campaign.

For taking to the skies above Shropshire to recreate the aerial conflict, they received no extra pay, the filming all being considered part of their rest cure.

What a fitting backdrop that footage would make for the Gladiator now on display at Cosford, having been moved there from the RAF Museum in London.

## Footage

Alas, there is a great, unsolved mystery. For after the aerial scenes were in the can, filming was cancelled indefinitely. The movie was never finished and nobody knows what happened to the footage that was shot by the team which had arrived at RAF Rednal, a Spitfire training base near Oswestry, in the autumn of 1943.

Maybe it lies undiscovered in some archive or private collection? Or maybe, and perhaps most probably, it was binned, and has been lost forever?

We can however bring you some rare images taken during the filming, which are in an album which was compiled by the cameraman on the project, the late Osmond Borradaile.

“Bordie” was a renowned cinematographer who worked on films such as *The Four Feathers* and *Scott of the Antarctic*, and enhanced the work of the likes of Cecil B. De Mille, Alfred Hitchcock, and Otto Preminger. He has been described as “the greatest exterior camera artist in the world.”

A Canadian, his son George lives in Surrey, British Columbia, Canada, and has kindly emailed us his father’s photographic souvenirs



“A mob of drinkers - and real fellows” - that’s how Bordie captioned this picture of film crew and pilots at RAF Rednal



“Director Vernon Sewell tells us what to do – we just smile,” is the caption Bordie – in the rear seat of the Tiger Moth – has written in his album



Squadron Leader Richard Acworth, DFC, had previously flown Gladiators in battle

of that Shropshire shoot. It is conceivable that they include a photo of K8042, the Gladiator now at Cosford, although with the serial number not visible in some shots, it is impossible to be sure.

Bordie also wrote memoirs – they were compiled into the book “*Life Through A Lens*” by his daughter Anita Hadley – which shed light on why the film was abandoned.

An ambitious project, to his deep disappointment it ultimately fell victim to the limited resources of the day, he wrote, and he did not know what had happened to the negatives.

Neither George nor Anita, who lives in British Columbia, can shed any more light on what happened to the completed footage.

The Air Ministry had given Denham Studios the green light to make the film and co-operated by providing facilities, including aircraft and pilots. Locations around Shrewsbury were selected, with studio models built at Denham.

The producer was Paul Soskin, the director was Vernon Sewell, and the cast of “resting

RAF pilots included Squadron Leader Richard Acworth, who had won the Distinguished Flying Cross and had taken part in the original air battle over Greece, and another DFC winner, Birmingham-born Flying Officer Tommy Tinsey, who had 52 pieces of shrapnel in his legs, and had flown Spitfires in the North African campaign.

Bordie wrote in his memoirs: “A closely-knit group, the pilots became known as ‘Soskin’s Squadron’ after the producer, Paul Soskin.” He went on: “Our pilots were a grand bunch of fellows. They had all flown at least two tours, and were assigned to us as a rest holiday. Some holiday all right!”

The exuberant pilots entered into the spirit of the production, and local townspeople must have wondered, said Bordie, about so many crash dives which left no trace of wreckage. The filming made headlines, and a story in the *Daily Express* of February 14, 1944, told how “in a market town in the wilds of north west England... country folk run from their cottages

day after day to gaze up at the strangest series of aerial dogfights ever seen over Britain...” The town concerned was not mentioned because of censorship, but may well have been Oswestry.

Apart from the Wellington bomber – nicknamed a “Wimpy” – which had cameras in the nose, tail, and midships, two other aircraft were used as camera planes. They were a Tiger Moth two-seater biplane, using a camera swivelled by hand and operated from the open cockpit, and a 1936 Gladiator with an automatic camera clamped onto the lower wing, surrounded by hot water bottles to stop it freezing. A captured Messerschmitt was used as the “enemy.”

Bordie wrote: “It did not take long for me to come to the conclusion that this was a most difficult assignment because of all the restrictions imposed on us. We would all be briefed as to the shots we wished to obtain, and warned of the balloon barrage to our east, and told that the ack-ack guns would open up on us if we

approached the land from the sea. Well, by the time we got through the clouds and tried to form up to get a shot, we often were over these restricted areas. It was not nice to be fired on by our own guns.”

Not long beforehand, Bordie had suffered burns when a ship on which he was filming was sunk in the Mediterranean, and in the low temperatures in the air at 18,000ft his recently-healed burns were very sensitive, so he wore a leather face mask.

“Like the other fellows, I was only glad to get back to our pub and enjoy a grog or two, and of course the laughs that followed.

“We were fortunate, for during all this show, we only lost one Glad, when the pilot made a forced landing in the hospital yard. The pilot did not need the attention of the institute, but the plane was not in such healthy shape.

“Yes, we were indeed lucky. What has happened to the footage, I do not know. A week or so after the air sequences were completed, the production was cancelled for an indefinite time.”

The location of this forced landing incident appears to have been Park Hall Farm, Oswestry, on November 4, 1943, so the hospital he mentioned would have been Shropshire Orthopaedic Hospital.

However, Bordie was wrong to think this was the only aircraft to have been lost, as just under three weeks later another two Gladiators were in a mid-air collision near Arddleen in Mid Wales, both pilots baling out.

## Blank

So what happened, or might have happened, to the completed footage? We went on a sleuthing trail, but ultimately drew a blank.

Tina McFarling of the British Film Institute said there was no straightforward answer to what would happen to uncompleted film.

“If a film was not completed, you have your producers, financiers, and sometimes somebody in the middle called a completion guarantor, who is the intermediary.”

Generally it would be one of them who held the completed footage, although it was also possible the footage had been disposed of.

It seems though there is always a hope that it might have survived and unexpectedly turn up.

Our inquiries also took in the Rank Organisation, which turns out to have sold all film rights to Thames TV some time ago; FremantleMedia (of which Thames is now part); British Pathe; and Pinewood Studios, with which Denham Studios had merged many moons ago. Sadly, like all the others, Pinewood could find no trace of the film.

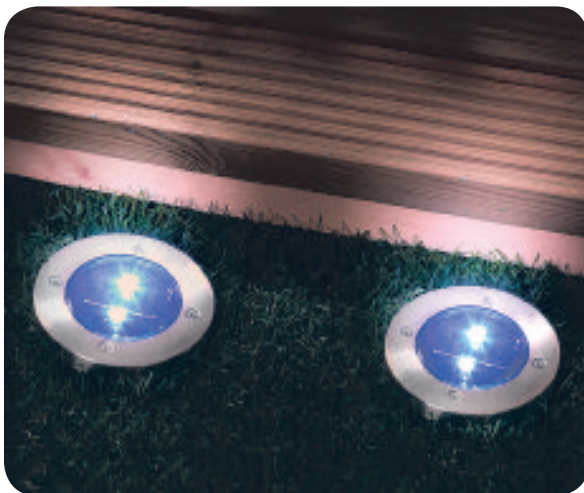
It wasn’t deposited at the Imperial War Museum either.

Mr Kay Gladstone, Senior Curator, Film Archive, Acquisitions and Documentation, told us: “This was a commercial – or ‘independent’ production – so would never have been deposited at IWM.”

He added: “In any case the rushes of commercial films which are abandoned are seldom retained, however frustrating that may subsequently be for journalists and historians interested in recalling the past.”

So, *Signed With Their Honour* remains “missing,” with only a slim hope that this movie masterpiece did not end up in the bin.





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# Take some vintage style outside for the summer

**ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES**

with John Ridgway of Perry & Phillips



**WE** know summer is well and truly on its way when we start to sell vintage garden items in our auctions – and that began recently with the sale of a impressive Georgian sundial.

The bronze sundial, made by Thomas Heath around 1750, would once have graced the grounds of a stately home and it sold for several thousands pounds – which admittedly is beyond the average person's budget!

However, 'lesser' antique sundials and some excellent reproductions won't break the bank and certainly add some vintage style to any garden.

In fact, some of the really nice copies look so good they can easily be mistaken for the real thing – I once bought a stone trough, probably made in the 20th century, to put outside a cottage... and when I removed it I got a nasty letter from the powers that be telling me the trough was ancient and had been a drinking trough for horses in days of yore!

All kinds of vintage garden items and furniture sell well in the saleroom at this time of year, from wooden benches to birdbaths. And you don't have to stick to traditional ideas – butler's sinks, chimney pots and old tin baths make great planters and I've seen a number of vintage bicycles used as stands for trailing plants.

Some people love to use antique garden implements, such as old hoes and even heavy metal rollers, for outside decoration to add to the vintage look.

Farming bits and pieces are also popular, look out for hay racks, troughs and wooden sheep-dip boxes.

You can find some nice vintage patio sets in the saleroom but also very attractive pub tables and chairs which can look just as good.

Of course, everything depends on the size of your garden. With large gardens you can really make a statement – we recently sold a huge gazebo – and for smaller gardens and courtyards you can go for terracotta pots and even 'outdoor' mirrors to make a space look bigger.

As with all vintage items, check the condition before you buy – and allocate a set budget before setting out for the saleroom in case you end up with a very expensive Georgian sundial!

**Perry and Phillips** hold valuation days, for sale items only, every Wednesday from 10am until 4pm.

The next Perry and Phillips sale of antiques and collectables takes place at the Mill Street saleroom in Bridgnorth on Tuesday, June 6. Viewing will be during the weekend and on Monday.

## Adding style despite restrictions of workwear



Trendy and complying with standards

WE are working on a large project for one of our clients at the moment, it is a very different brief to previous ones as they require the garments to meet all the British standards of compliance but also be as trendy as possible.

Zip-in bodywarmers, fleece and softshell resemble something you would wear to the gym or the local hostelry... if, of course, you were comfortable wearing hi-vis yellow! The jackets are shaped and stylish and the pockets are required to be engineered to lift a mobile phone as the flap is opened, grip and hold an earphone cable and comfortably carry an i-pad internally.

It is only a few years ago that workwear would have consisted of the simplest, cheapest items with a large printed logo, uncomfortable to wear, quick to wear out and very unsuitable for purpose. They were a "nod" to employer's requirements, safety at work.

Things have changed dramatically, compliance is now of the utmost importance and it is now essential to ensure your employees can be seen, are protected from the environment and any dangers at work and meet any health and safety requirements.

### STYLE FOCUS

with Janet Timmis



The restrictions created by compliance mean it is difficult to add the design features to please the wearer but with clever shape and fit it makes the wearer happier during their working day.

Sleeve articulation allowing lift in the arms, elbow darts allowing comfort in movement and hoods that adjust to increase visibility and protection. There is much to be considered before design detail is even contemplated and the brief from the client is the very least of our worries.

There are many thousands of British and International standards (BS and ISO). The International Organisation for Standardisation state that "documents are created that provide requirements, specifications, guidelines or characteristics that can be used consistently to ensure that materials, products,

processes and services are fit for their purpose".

They help with the safety of children's clothing, protection against the elements and impact, visibility, fabric stability, abrasion resistance and harness security to name only a few. The garments have to be tested and approved before they can be sold and ensure that the wearer feels safer in their working environment.

I love a challenge and this sort of project keeps the brain working overtime, it is a pleasure to develop something that will be comfortable to wear in a challenging environment and look good at the same time.

Not all workwear meets the exacting standards of this particular project but there is a definite move towards style and practicality.

Next time you put on the jacket your employer has given you to wear, consider the components factored into it and even if it is not perfect it is a step in the right direction of effectiveness and appearance.

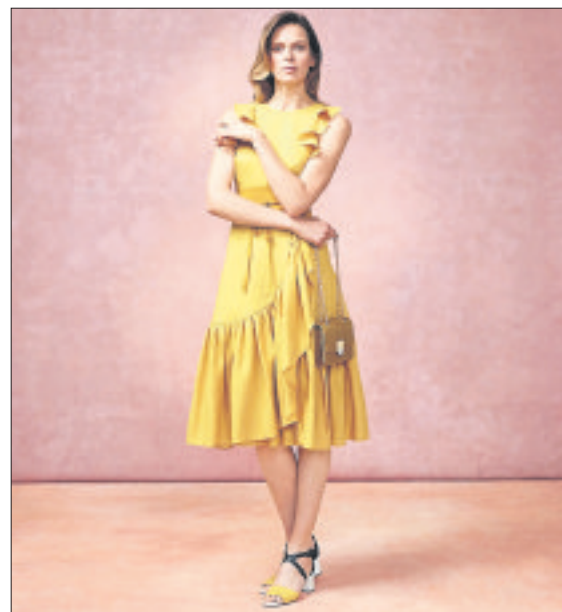
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The M&S Collection with lace up ballet pumps



Topshop Gina V-Cut Flare block heel shoes



The glamorous option – Hobbs Carmen dress with Zoe block heel sandals

# Good footwear a shoe-in for your perfect look



Yellow in vogue – Amanda Holden

**FROM** furry sliders to cute kitten heels, there's a shoe to suit every desire this season.

Spring sees the return of a few footwear favourites of yore (well, if the Noughties can be described as "yore"), but with a 2017 twist.

From practical flats to showy sandals, it's the heel height (or lack thereof) that's setting the style agenda now, for daywear and after dark.

If it's on-trend accessories you're after, these are the shoes to choose this season...

#### SLIDE RULES

Part Gucci, part Fenty for Puma and 100 per cent cool – fluffy pool sliders are the only kind of fur you'll want to wear come summer. Team with your with faded Nineties denim or sport luxe separates.

:: Dune Luau Sliders, £50 ([www.dunelondon.com](http://www.dunelondon.com))

:: Office Snuggle Fluffy Pink Faux Fur Mule Sandals, £48 ([www.office.co.uk](http://www.office.co.uk))

#### BALLET MOVES

Having faded in the fashion firmament somewhat, the ballet flat is back, but this time, Kate Moss' mid-Noughties staple comes complete with ankle ribbons.

Show off your dancing slippers with cropped trousers, culottes or a calf-skimming midi skirt.

### Report by Katie Wright

:: M&S Collection Pure Cotton Embroidered Flute Sleeve Blouse, £29.50; Limited Edition Cotton Rich Gingham Ruffle Midi Skirt, £35; Autograph Lace-Up Ballet Pumps, £45 ([www.marksandspencer.com](http://www.marksandspencer.com))  
:: Dune Handsel Nude Ribbon Tie Up Ballerina Shoes, £65 ([www.dunelondon.com](http://www.dunelondon.com))  
:: Topshop Kisses Pearl Ballerina Pumps, £39 ([www.topshop.com](http://www.topshop.com))

#### PURR-FECT PICKS

Love them or hate them, kitten heels are back in a big way.

How to wear the mini-stiletto now? Keep it modern with sleek, shiny mules, or look out for tie and bow detailing (another big spring trend).

:: Wallis Silver Kitten Heel Mules, £38 ([www.wallis.co.uk](http://www.wallis.co.uk))

:: Office Martini Point Mule Silver Mirror Kitten Heels, £65 ([www.office.co.uk](http://www.office.co.uk))

#### BLOCK PARTY

The Sixties-style square heel has had a catwalk-inspired makeover, and now the flared block heel is the one to be seen in.

From suede glove shoes to summery sandals, these chunky twosomes are equal parts cool and comfy.

:: Hobbs Carmen Dress, £159; Ochre Obi Belt, £69; Pimlico Mini Bag, £149; Zoe Block

Heel Sandals, £149 ([www.hobbs.co.uk](http://www.hobbs.co.uk))  
:: Miss Selfridge Cody Mule Sandals, currently reduced to £20.30 from £29 ([www.missselfridge.com](http://www.missselfridge.com))

:: Topshop Gina V-Cut Flare Block Heel Shoes, £56 ([www.topshop.com](http://www.topshop.com))

#### GET THE LOOK

Call it the Beauty And The Beast effect. Fashion has gone mad for yellow dresses and they're all over the red carpet too.

Case in point – Amanda Holden was radiant at the recent Olivier Awards, in a floaty, chiffon one-shoulder gown.

Be the Belle of your next ball (or wedding) in this Little Mistress lemon yellow maxi.

:: Little Mistress Lemon Jewel Waist Maxi Dress, £78 ([www.little-mistress.com](http://www.little-mistress.com))

#### BUY IT NOW

Let's be honest, charity fashion collaborations aren't always that appealing.

But the Hype x War Child range of hoodies, tees and sweatshirts effortlessly retains the streetwear label's urban edge.

The four-piece collection is out now, with at least £15 per item going to the charity, which helps protect children living in the world's most dangerous war zones.

Prices start from £25 ([www.justhype.co.uk](http://www.justhype.co.uk)).

:: Hype x War Child Border Floral Tee, £25 ([www.justhype.co.uk](http://www.justhype.co.uk))



# Top quality and stunning

## Commercial feature

**OAKWOOD Lodge Park offers some spectacular views from its lodges nestled in the picturesque surroundings of mid-Wales.**

From romantic breaks for couples to week-long holidays for all the family, self-catering lodges are available during winter, spring, summer or autumn, 365 days a year.

The quality self catering accommodation is in fully-equipped and centrally-heated log cabins. Guests can enjoy the small, peaceful and secluded park, set in 20 acres of land, including the bluebell filled woodland of about three acres.

Most lodges have private garden areas offering seclusion and privacy as well as the attractive panoramic view towards the magnificent Elan Valley, with its mountains, lakes and moors.

The park is just outside the market town of Rhyader and midway between the Brecon Beacons and Snowdonia and Aberystwyth and Hereford.

## Secure

Owner John said: "All lodges face south and have five-mile panoramic views across the valley. We are very dog friendly with secure fences right around the whole park. Most of our lodges have private hot tubs and we are open 365 days of the year."

"We offer romantic short breaks for couples, family holidays and welcome group bookings too."

"The quality of our lodges and the stunning views really are second to none," he added.

Our guests satisfaction comes first in everything we do. Many of our guests not only come back each year but many will visit several times a year."

Oakwood was first opened for guests in 1997 but was purchased by the current owners in April 2013. They spent the



Chill out on this relaxing site and with panoramic views

previous 11 years running a large and successful four-star bed and breakfast in Henley-on-Thames.

Since being at Oakwood, they have added three new premium lodges taking the total up to 14, 10 of which now have private hot tubs, which have proven particularly popular.

The owners, together with their live-in staff, have also re-surfaced the roads while a new guest reception was built and new signage erected on the lanes leading to the site. John added: "The objective was to

continue to offer a quiet, relaxing holiday, that was pet friendly and to welcome all guests whether they are a couple, family or group.

"Being open 365 days a year and allowing check ins on any day of the week, with only a three-night minimum stay, means that Oakwood has a dedicated following of regular guests who return time and time again."

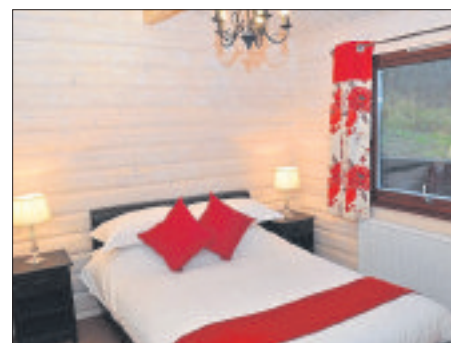
"The plans for the future include a couple more hot tubs, and perhaps one or two more lodges, but above all to retain the

quiet, friendly and relaxing atmosphere that Oakwood has built its reputation on," he added.

More details on the lodges at Oakwood Lodge Park can be found on the website at [www.oakwoodlodges.co.uk](http://www.oakwoodlodges.co.uk) or by calling 01597 811422.

Alternatively, contact Oakwood for details via email on [info@oakwoodlodges.co.uk](mailto:info@oakwoodlodges.co.uk).

They are also on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/OakwoodLodgePark](https://www.facebook.com/OakwoodLodgePark) where a host of pictures and videos of the park can be found.



Interior views of the high standard lodges

## CONTACT US

**Name: Oakwood Lodge Park**

**Address: Oakwood Lodge Park,  
Rhyader, Powys, LD6 5NT**

**Phone number: 01597 811422**

**Website: [www.oakwoodlodges.co.uk](http://www.oakwoodlodges.co.uk)**

# Oak Wood LODGES

## 01597 811422

## [www.oakwoodlodges.co.uk](http://www.oakwoodlodges.co.uk)

Norwegian log cabins situated  
at 1000ft above sea-level  
in the 'Heart of Wales'.

Fantastic views with red kites  
soaring overhead.

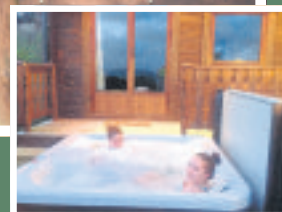
Stunning location and  
excellent touring centre.

Dogs welcome.

Small site.

All year round availability.

Superb holiday  
accommodation.



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## Single Women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

**BRIDGET** 48, voluptuous, seductive and very saucy, seeks male for lots of TLC and to make very happy in return. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426839 Ⓢ

**KATIE** 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673

**CHRIS**, 40, blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426623 Ⓢ

**JANE**, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715

**JANET** tall beautiful brunette, slim 12, separated, enjoys life, no hang-ups, wanting quality time, friendship and possible romance with similar guy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426807 Ⓢ

**SOPHIA** young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399

**DEBS** lonely 40's female with no ties, GSQH, N/S, loves the simple things in life looking for similar soul mate to be happy together with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426769 Ⓢ

**EMILY**, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375

**SUE**, 46, confident professional, sporty/active, seeking sensitive interesting guy for intimate evenings in with great food and conversations. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426757 Ⓢ

**TAMIKA**, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 422365

**JOY** happily married, bi curious, blonde hair, blue eyes, big boobs, seeks someone to join in a bit of bedroom fun Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426845

**SAMANTHA**, 35yrs, attractive brunette with own business, seeks adventurous gent for casual relationship. Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box 425979

**ANNE** blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks males for no strings adult fun! Call and leave a number for me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426843

**JASMINE**, 34yrs, non smoking first time driver! Easy going, attractive and hard working. Due to work commitments I'm looking for a no strings companion any age. Looks unimportant must have GSQH. Tel: 0906 515 3015 Box 426201

**CARIBBEAN** woman, 57 years young, mature build, WLTm a nice man, 55-63, for days out socialising, romance, non smoker. Text only. Mailbox: 5774104 Ⓢ

**HARRIETT** 42yrs, blue eyed brunette with long legs and decent curves! Looking for a kingly adventurous man for fun only. I live alone so can accommodate and can travel. Discretion assured. ACA. Give me a try. Tel: 0906 515 3031 Box 426205



**Customer support**  
Call 0207 720 7130 Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm  
or email us at [support@jmediauk.co.uk](mailto:support@jmediauk.co.uk)



**SARAH**, 38, nice looking blue-eyed slim brunette, WLTm similar lonely male for fun times hopefully leading to LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426709 Ⓢ

**PIA**, Asian lady, 57yrs, very caring and a little subversive and quiet. I am a good cook and loyal friend. Pls text me if you are kind man 55+ Text Only. Mailbox 4013378 Ⓢ

**CHRIS**, 40, attractive slim sophisticated red-head, seeking male 30-50's to relax with and get to know. Discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426301 Ⓢ

**NATALIA**, black beauty! I am late 50s but still fit with a good figure and lovely skin and eyes. I would like to meet a nice white gentleman, older than myself for chats, maybe more. Text Only. Mailbox 4107799 Ⓢ

**CATHY**, 40s, slim attractive lady with an open-minded attitude to life, and WLTm a man of any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426579 Ⓢ

**SUSAN**, 41, sophisticated, confident, discreet, attractive female seeking professional male over 38 for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426557 Ⓢ

**FARMERS** daughter, 69, single, likes heavy horses, animals, meals out, GSQH, friendship only. 65-75. Text only. Mailbox: 5799589 Ⓢ

**KAREN**, 52, 5ft5, short brown/blond hair, green eyes, medium build, GSQH, loving, caring and kind, likes to do lots of things, likes a laugh, WLTm similar gent, hope to hear from you soon! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425917

**GENTS**, please call me if you are looking to meet a kind sincere lady for nights at the theatre, socialising etc. You can call or text me. I promise to reply. I'm very genuine. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426345 Ⓢ

**JACKIE** is 54yrs and an attractive easygoing brunette, she's hoping to meet a similar minded chap for some fun, dates, chats, text or call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426343 Ⓢ

**ATTRACTIVE** blonde lady, 54yrs, loyal, romantic and solvent hoping to meet a gent with GSQH for romance, sensual times and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426341 Ⓢ



All messages received £1.50. Text STOP to 89990 to exit at any time Minimum 7 messages must be sent before contact details can be exchanged. This service is not computer generated. Messages are responded to by real service users. No meetings can be guaranteed. If arranging a meeting be sure to choose a public space and do not give personal details to people you have not met. Service provided by No Goats Ltd. Help: 0207 720 7130 or email: [support@jmedia.co.uk](mailto:support@jmedia.co.uk)

**KATHERINE** 38, attractive, single, very lonely and looking for love, fun and male companionship. pls get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426595 Ⓢ

**KAREN**, 46, witty female who loves to laugh, WLTm similar male to share interests, romance, cosy nights in and more. Pls call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426335 Ⓢ

**BROWN** eyed female, 66, smoker, likes music, cinema, theatre, meals out WLTm male 67-74 for LTR. Text only. Mailbox: 5806373 Ⓢ

**LOUISE**, 40s, youthful looking female looking for spontaneous male to put some love and lust back into my life. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426321 Ⓢ

**CHLOE** pretty single female 36yrs, dark hair/eyes, slim build, very lonely and looking for reliable discreet male for mutual companionship maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426079 Ⓢ

**JAN**, 46, lonely divorced romantic female, brown hair, green eyes, curvy feminine figure, employed, OHAC, WLTm attentive male for TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426255 Ⓢ

**PAM**, 40, cuddly feminine young looking female, OHAC, financially secure, looking for fun times without complications with like-minded male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426253 Ⓢ

**KEELY** young attractive vivacious 48yr old lady, loves good food, cosy nights in/out, holidays etc, WLTm male for mutual companionship without ties. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425913 Ⓢ

**SUE**, 36, petite blonde, curvy size 8, outgoing, cultured, enjoys cosy night cuddles. seeking discreet loving male to make me feel special. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426219 Ⓢ

**SARA**, 43, educated independent attractive female, nervous about dating through advertising, so pls doesn't disappoint me by not replying. I promise I won't disappoint you! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426161 Ⓢ

**JANINE** 40yrs, very cute petite artistic female who has a real passion for life, WLTm similarly passionate male for tactile LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426125 Ⓢ

**JANE**, attractive and young looking 60 something lady, active, outgoing with interesting personality, hoping to meet a kind gent for occasional meetings. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425931 Ⓢ

**BROWN** eyed Brummie female, 66, smoker, likes music, cinema, theatre, meals out WLTm male 67-74 for LTR. Text only. Mailbox: 5780679 Ⓢ

**KEELY** young attractive vivacious 48yr old lady, loves good food, cosy nights in/out, holidays etc, WLTm male for mutual companionship without ties. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425913 Ⓢ

**SUE** 38yrs enjoys most things, meals in/out, easygoing, broadminded, passionate, slightly feisty, looking for adult fun, call me if you're interested in spicing things up. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425587 Ⓢ

**EILEEN** mid 60s seeks gent 50s-60s for friendship, possibly much more. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425341 Ⓢ

**DONNA** naughty 40's, pretty, loves nights in, gym, theatre, seeks someone to make me laugh, give lots of cuddles and go on fun dates. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425867 Ⓢ

**DAWN** 33yr old female looking for companionship with understanding, non-jealous male 35-55yrs. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425849 Ⓢ

**ANETTA**, black cuddly lady seeks man who knows what a woman needs. I'm very friendly and have time for you. Please call or text me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425933 Ⓢ

**GILLY**, slim petite lady, affectionate and loving, solvent with own home, hoping to meet gent, must be kind, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425929 Ⓢ

**MERRY** widow seeks lovely lonely gent for companionship. Please call, we can have a chat and see how we get on. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425927 Ⓢ

**AMANDA**, slim blonde, 50s seeks discreet gent for special times, mutually beneficial to us both. Call now. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425327 Ⓢ

**SARA**, 43, educated, independent, attractive female, nervous about dating through advertising, so pls don't disappoint me by not replying. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425703 Ⓢ

**BROWN** eyed female, 66, smoker, likes music, cinema, theatre, meals out, WLTm male 67-74 for LTR. Text only. Mailbox: 5501142 Ⓢ

**JEAN**, 40, 5ft slim, busty blonde, new to dating and fed up of going through the pub scene, WLTm down to earth male for adult company. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425671 Ⓢ

**MICHELLE**, 34, blonde blue-eyed happy female, loves heels and being feminine, OHAC, self sufficient, looking for male for long-term relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426669 Ⓢ

**FEMALE**, 66 yrs old, looks young, loves to laugh, n/s, who is genuine, caring and just wants to be loved again. Text only. Mailbox: 5750819 Ⓢ

**MARIE**, very attractive curvy widow, longing for romance, seeking country-loving male with old-fashioned values for lots of TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425599 Ⓢ

**ROZ**, 43, tactile, sensual, loves to dress up, and wear heels, seeks genuine caring male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425597 Ⓢ

**KATHY** 37, gorgeous mixed race single female, 5ft 8ins, slim, sensual, just looking for kind, trustworthy guy any age, looks or race. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425589 Ⓢ

**JACKIE**, 56yrs, attractive lady who is lots of fun seeks like-minded gent for nights in, days out and much much more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424481 Ⓢ

**SUE**, 60s lady, calling all gents who seek a mature solvent stylish lady. I can wine and dine you, you will have a nice time, call or text me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424781 Ⓢ

**JAN** 41, fed up of sitting at home every week-end watching TV alone. Feel the same and looking for love? please contact me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425497 Ⓢ

**STACY** 28yr old gorgeous brunette with buxom figure, intelligent and sensual, WLTm genuine male to get to know for fun dates and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425457 Ⓢ

**SARAH**, 41, dizzy blonde, blue eyes, loves to dance seeks affectionate, hunky, fun male to make her laugh and brighten up her day. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425413 Ⓢ

**YOUNG** looking Indian female, 40, enjoys meals in/out, good company and conversation, looking for likeminded male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425493 Ⓢ

**VIKKI** 32yr old active female, confident, fit, loves night outs, looking for similar assertive male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425453 Ⓢ

**SUE**, attractive genuine lady, own home, loves to split a man, give me a call or text. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424673 Ⓢ

**WANTED** gent 50-76 for cosy nights in, good times, call or text me, you won't be sorry. I'm attractive and have lots to offer. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425339 Ⓢ

**CAROL** petite brunette, 38yrs, romantic, affectionate, outgoing, seeks similar sensual male for nice times together. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425395 Ⓢ

**LADY**, looking for a mature, caring, loving gentleman, 55-70, to enjoy the finer things of life with and to be my best friend. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425309 Ⓢ

**JEAN**, mature lady, genuine with many hobbies, slim, blonde and attractive. WLTm interesting gent with GSQH, must be cheerful, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424675 Ⓢ

**KATHERINE**, 28, tall, slim, dark, blue eyed female with many interests, OHAC, WLTm interesting male for dates, and more. Single Dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425287 Ⓢ

**TRACY**, 41, outgoing sun worshiper, OHAC, employed, looking for her Prince Charming to enjoy romantic holidays and good times together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425257 Ⓢ

**SHARON** 38yr old single mum looking for loving guy who will appreciate me and help repair my broken heart. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425283 Ⓢ

**Single Men**  
32 year old male looking for a nice lady for fun, maybe more. Text only. Mailbox: 5831443 Ⓢ

**GENT** 48, youthful outlook, likes countryside, likes out, daytime, music and reading. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408811

**YOUNG** 60 West Midlands male, 5ft 8ins, grey hair, slim to medium build, sexy Scorpio, GSQH, broadminded, seeking an honest sexy lady for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426621

**MALE** N/S, honest, GSQH, car owner, seeks female, 55-70 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416817

**CARING** male, 63, N/S, GSQH, genuine likes music, travel, meals out, casual drink, seeks single, daytime, music and reading. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416997

**EASYGOING** male, 63, genuine, N/S seeks female 50-70 for friendship and romance. Likes unimportant. Likes occasional drink, eating in/out, cinema and driving. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418893

**SINGLE** male, n/s, likes music, films, driving, nights in, dining out, likes, WLTm lady, 50-70, looks unimportant, for friendship and relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424927 Ⓢ

**GENTLEMAN** wishes to meet a nice lady 45-60, West Midlands area. My interests are music, daytime, music and reading. Text only. Mailbox: 5817771 Ⓢ

**Genuine** Stoke male 50s, friendly and easygoing, enjoys weekends away, seeks slim attractive female 35 to 50 for friendship. Text only. Mailbox: 5817202 Ⓢ

**MARK**, single, 6ft, blue eyes, dark hair, lots of interests, sport, music, cinema, long walks, eating out, looking to meet that special lady. If that sounds like you please get in touch! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426461 Ⓢ

I enjoy the great outdoors with the dog, 36 years old, mature with a caring nature looking for a female age 28-48 for friendship, possible relationship. Text only. Mailbox: 5803493 Ⓢ

**CARING** male, 6ft, blue eyes, slim, dark hair, honest, loving, down to earth, likes sport, music, cinema, meals out, seeking special lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409803

**IAN**, 56s, looking for somebody, 18-60, for general good fun times, days out, nights out, meals, sightseeing and visiting various parts of the country. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426437 Ⓢ

**MALE** 45 6ft, blue eyes, dark hair, slim, likes sports, cinema, meals out, seeking loving, caring female to share life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406737

**YOUNG** 60, West Midlands male, 5ft8, grey hair, wear specs, GSQH, sexy Scorpio, broad minded, slim to medium build, varied interests, seeking a genuine, honest, sexy lady for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426137 Ⓢ

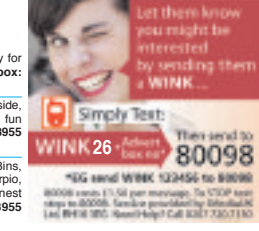
40 year old Hungarian male, 5ft8, slim, dark blond hair, blue eyes, WLTm a lady 30-45 to spend some time together for friendship. Text only. Mailbox: 5800702 Ⓢ

**WILLIAM**, young 56, would like some adult fun with a sexy lady, any age, wants and good time and discreet fun. Text only. Mailbox: 5321154 Ⓢ

**MALE**, 60s, 5ft10, slim build, looking to meet female, for a mature adult relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426053

**MALE**, 58, works in agriculture, lives in North Shropshire area, likes the countryside, days at the coast even in the winter, meals out, looking for loving, caring, country girl, 50s-60s. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426037

**SHARON** 38yr old single mum looking for loving guy who will appreciate me and help repair my broken heart. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425283 Ⓢ



**SINGLE** male, 31 years old, brown eyes, black hair, 6ft, seeks single slim athletic build lady similar age for fun, hopefully more. Text only. Mailbox: 4765584 Ⓢ

**JAY**, attractive, 6ft2, single father, loves a laugh and a giggle, looking for a lady for evenings out, company and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424303 Ⓢ

**CHRISTIAN**, 57, 6ft, dark, likes walking, nice meals and socialising, looking for discreet times with a similar fun lady. If you are interested please contact me. I look forward to hearing from you. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425947

**STEVE**, 59, sincere and genuine, likes pub meals, country walks and cinema, seeks Chinese, Thai, Black, Asian or Italian lady, looks unimportant but personality is, for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425831

I am looking for a lady friend to enjoy my retirement with. I enjoy going out for meals and would like some company. Text only. Mailbox: 577872 Ⓢ

**ADVENTUROUS** 36-year-old male, slim, dark hair, has many interests, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235 Ⓢ

**MARRIED** businessman, mid fifties, seeks lady for discreet adult fun. Any age/looks unimportant. Text only. Mailbox: 5534019 Ⓢ

**IRISH** male, 62, 5ft 9ins, GSQH, independent, seeks genuine female for friendship initially. Birmingham area. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403623



**MALE**, 60, tall and slim, WLTm older female of larger build, any age, any status, for adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425807

**TALL** male, 58, seeks larger woman, any age, for discreet fun, married or single. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425643

**GENUINE** male, 37, friendly and easygoing, enjoys sport and keep fit, WLTm genuine female 25-45, for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425253

**TALL**, dark, attractive male, 57, WLTm an attractive female for discreet daytime fun, 25-50. Can travel. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425759 Ⓢ

**MALE**, late 60s, medium build, 5ft10, n/s, car owner, likes meals out, holidays, walks, WLTm slim, attractive female who enjoys similar activities for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425757

**ATTRACTIVE** Shrewsbury male, 50s, WLTm an attractive female, any age/status, for discreet daytime fun and excitement. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422801

**GARY**, 46, 5ft10, blue eyes, GSQH, likes football, quiet nights in, nights out, cinema, walking, travelling, looking for a likeable woman, 35-50, bubbly and fun loving with a GSQH. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425441

**I'M** Andy, 52, looking for a lady, 50-65, for long term relationship, so text me and lets see what happens. Text only. Mailbox: 5396692 Ⓢ

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# Comedy chaos? We'll guarantee it

**B**OGIES! One simple word that sums up the Saturday mornings of a generation. Now, more than 10 years later, comedy duo Dick and Dom, or Richard McCourt and Dominic Wood, are back with their live tour.

It reaches the Core Theatre in Solihull on April 22, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall on August 17 and Stafford Gatehouse on October 29.

The pair sat down with The Ticket to fill us in on what mad capers fans can expect from the show.

"Basically we split the crowd into two different teams so we have the Dick vs the Dom," says Dom.

"We play loads of different games, we bring the crowd up on stage to play games as well and then whoever wins the round gets a point for their team. Then the team with the most points wins!"

Nothing is this simple in the world of Dick and Dom – and anything can happen on their live tour, with each night promising to be different.

"We've been doing it for about five or six years now but this is the first time we've done it as a UK tour," says Dick.

"It's really good fun, it's one of those shows that has the same sort of feel as Dick and Dom in Da Bungalow with all of the chaos – you just don't know what's going to happen!"

## FLASH

"We can't wait to return to the Midlands, it has great audiences. We did our last tour in Birmingham in front of thousands of people and it was really warm."

Dick and Dom are famed for their own brand of whimsical chaos on our TV screens, a style that they adapted to stage in a flash.

"We've been doing this for more than 20 years now, so a lot of the ideas now have just been crafted over time that we know work," says Dick.

"The live show Dick vs Dom is basically a culmination of everything we've done over the years in one package. We're like one big joke book, one big file of different routines, show bits, festival bits and we just put all of that together for our live shows."

With such an extensive array of kooky highlights from their career – what's their favourite?

"We really have to look back at Dick and Dom in Da Bungalow for that, that's one of our favourite things that we have ever done, and obviously it had the very famous game 'Bogies' that has stayed with the audience ever since," Dick tells us.

"Obviously that audience has grown up now and we have taken it with us when we've done university tours.

It's become a classic, it was on BBC One, BBC Two and all these digital channels afterwards for people to watch."

"The 'Bogies' game just sticks, I don't know what it is with it! It channels that sort of Horrid Henry and Dennis the Menace sort of vibe that people love," Dom continues.

"We brought it back recently for Comic Relief and doing it again, as 40 year olds, was just great!

"It's funny that most children who are watching us on BBC now, when you write bogies on an autograph they have no idea why you've put it!"

Dick and Dom's career started more than 20 years ago, after years of hard work.

"At the young age of 18 I was a tea boy and a runner and I started at the bottom and worked my way up," Dick tells us.

Dom adds: "As for me, I was a jobbing magician in

Capers – Dick and Dom bring their live show to the Midlands



the south west, and I used that in a job interview and just worked really hard.

"We were then both presenters for the CBBC but we weren't comedians really, then there was this props guy who worked behind the scenes and he used to be like 'oh, here comes Dick and Dom!' and it just stuck.

"From that moment we got picked up by producer Steve Ride and he just developed our act even more and then we discovered we could just do fun things. It just came naturally, it wasn't a conscious decision by us."

From this, a whole new generation of comedy lovers was born as children tuned into their TV screens to catch a glimpse of the raucous duo.

In 2002, iconic programme Dick and Dom in Da Bungalow first aired and it was a programme that

*The 'Bogies' game just sticks . . . it channels that sort of Horrid Henry vibe*

changed the duo's lives forever and led to further shows such as Diddy Movies, Dick and Dom's Hoopla, Absolute Genius and more.

"Making the Bungalow was absolutely amazing. As teenagers all we wanted to do was to become CBBC presenters but moreso, the ultimate goal was to work on Saturday morning on BBC One," Dom enthuses.

"When we eventually got the call to say they wanted us to do that, we just didn't know what to do, it was amazing. That's just half the battle, the other half is just making sure everyone loves it and thankfully we succeeded.

"We all had an absolute riot making it, every single week we were howling with laughter. Everyone there genuinely was having the best time. It led to so many amazing things afterwards, it opened so many doors."

It's not just TV Dick and Dom have mastered, they've also had stints in theatre starring in the likes of Spamalot, Aladdin and Dick Whittington.

"It's instant gratification really, you see everyone having a great time in front of you," Dick tells us.

We wonder, what's coming up for the duo? "We can't reveal everything yet, but we do have a lot of really exciting things to look forward to!" Dom says.

"We're stacked up, and we do have some absolute crackers in the works, but we just can't reveal all yet!"

Becci Stanley

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.





Philip Morris as Rick Braithwaite



## To Sir, With Love still has a message for us today

E.R. Braithwaite's powerful story, *To Sir, With Love*, is brought to life at Birmingham Repertory Theatre from Wednesday to Saturday, April 25-May 6.

Immortalised in the classic 1967 film starring Sidney Poitier, and adapted for the stage by the writer of *East Is East*, Ayub Khan-Din, this new production directed by Gwenda Hughes and Tom Saunders will be brought to life by a company of young performers alongside professional actors.

Following last year's sell-out run of *The Rotters' Club* by Birmingham Repertory Theatre's Young Rep, the young performers aged 15 to 21 from the West Midlands will take to *The Rep's* main stage again, alongside Philip Morris as Rick Braithwaite.

Based on E. R. Braithwaite's autobiography, *To Sir,*

*With Love* is an inspirational story of courage and hope. Rick Braithwaite, a Cambridge graduate and ex-RAF fighter pilot, has fought for his country but is still fighting for acceptance. No employer wants him.

As the reality of life as a black man in post-war Britain hits him, he is forced to take a teaching post in a tough inner city school. Rick's class don't want him. The world has given up on them. But Rick knows what it's like to be ignored and isn't going to turn his back on them. This is a story about fighting prejudice with hope, set during a time of austerity, so still relevant.

On what drew him Ayub Khan-Din said "It was about reading the book and seeing what resonated. For me that was the discussion about education. Especially today, as everyone is so concerned about the way we're educating our children."

See [birmingham-rep.co.uk](http://birmingham-rep.co.uk) or call 0121 236 4455.

## Kane now able to make a change



Russell Kane is a changed man. For his *Right Man, Wrong Age* tour, which calls at Stourbridge Town Hall on Sunday, April 30, you may encounter someone with a new look, fresh perspectives and a different approach to his comedy.

"In the last year I've been married and had a baby. I've changed my hair, I've changed my look, I've thrown all my eyeliner in the bin."

"I literally went to my wardrobe one day and got all my ridiculous clothes and took them to the Sue Ryder shop for some other man having a midlife crisis, then bought the four exact same suits in different colours from Topman."

Then I got my hair as flat as it can go and I thought, 'that's it: this is me now.'"

Russell can pinpoint the exact moment when he needed to alter his outlook and write a new show. It started with somebody at the door.

"I'm always looking for the moment that can make me look ridiculous in a way that is compelling. I was in the middle of spray-tanning myself in these tiny pants when the doorbell went."

"I went downstairs in my dressing gown and this window cleaner was touting for work. He said, 'I'm really sorry to disturb you: is your mum or dad in at all?' You might have thought this was a compliment, but it's really not. He could be talking about how I'm putting myself across so I thought: 'clothes in the bin'. And at that moment, there was *Right Man, Wrong Age*."

In the world of stand-up, acts are continually expected to evolve and grow and turn over a significant amount of material every one or two years. For some this burden might prove too much, but for Russell Kane this is a challenge he relishes.

"I'll keep changing, and I don't really ever want to stand still. I don't care if it confuses people about where I'm coming from."

His sense of gratitude for the job he's doing is palpable. "I love it. If I ever have a bad day and feel miserable, I think about the things my family have done for a living. The fact that I can go and do an hour's work on stage is incredible."

For details see [www.boroughhalls.co.uk](http://www.boroughhalls.co.uk) or call 01384 812812. All tickets £17.

## Sir Ken spreads a little happiness

Veteran comedian Ken Dodd brings his *Happiness Show* to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on Saturday.

The 89-year-old comedy legend from Liverpool remains one of the hardest working men in showbusiness, though he now mostly limits himself to weekend gigs.

Sir Ken's performances are famous for their epic length as the 'Squire of Notty Ash' tickles his audience with countless gags delivered in his inimitable style.



## Bands uniting for charity concerts

Brum Bands Unite is a St George's Day celebration at Birmingham Town Hall in support of the Justice for the 21 Campaign, for the victims of the 1974 pub bombings by the IRA in the city.

Brum musical stalwarts such as Steve Gibbons, Quill, Vix and the Mischiefs (ex-Fuzzbox) and Morganisation (ex-ELO) will join Bitty McLean, Chris Tye and the Inspiration Ladies Choir on Sunday evening. Tickets cost £12.

There is another charity concert the following weekend, on Sunday, April 30, when Fudgestock 2017 is held at the Robin 2 in Bilton. The gig, from 4pm to 11pm, features six bands in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. The line up includes Phoenix Rising, Wounded Spirit, Dirty Roxx, David Young Band, Craig Patge and White Room.

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CHOICE



Ant & Dec

**Britain's Got Talent (ITV, 8pm)**  
Another selection of would-be entertainers hope to exhilarate and amuse in equal measure, as they take to the stage to demonstrate their individual talents to judges Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden, David Walliams and Alesha Dixon in the second round of the audition stage. As ever, Ant and Dec are on hand to give viewers an insight into the action backstage, and to congratulate – or comfort – the acts as they return from their moment in the limelight.

BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites. (R) 12.00 Football Focus. 1.00 BBC News: Weather. 1.15 London Marathon: My Reason to Run. 1.45 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The afternoon session on day eight at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield. 4.30 BBC News. 4.40 Regional Programme. 4.50 Match of the Day Live. Chelsea v Tottenham Hotspur (Kick-off 5.15pm). 7.20 Doctor Who. The Doctor and Bill find themselves in a gleaming, perfect city in the far future, at the edge of the galaxy. This new settlement is said to hold the secret of human happiness, but when the pair try to make contact with the locals, all they find are piles of grinning skulls. As the Time Lord and his new travelling pal seek to solve the terrifying mystery, a sinister force stirs within the walls, and from the shadows the cute but deadly emojibots are watching. Guest starring Ralf Little, with Matt Lucas as Nardole. 8.10 Casualty. Part one of two. The first day of Cal's strike causes chaos for Sam, who decides to make up for staff shortages by manning the ED himself, despite his lack of experience. 9.00 BBC News: Weather. 9.20 All Round to Mrs Brown's. Agnes and the family are joined in studio by choirmaster Gareth Malone and singer Peter Andre, while Steps perform their new single Scared of the Dark in Foley's pub and Nick Knowles teams up with Dermot and Buster for their Celebrity Boat Tour adventure. National Lottery Update. 10.20 Match of the Day. Dan Walker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including West Ham United v Everton and Bournemouth v Middlesbrough. 11.20 Murder in Successville. New series. Sleet and sidekick Richard Osman wade into the art underworld to catch Bjork's killer, with Hillary Clinton, Arsene Wenger, Zayn Malik and Bill Nighy all in the frame. 11.50 Film: Reign of Fire. (2002) Fantasy adventure, starring Christian Bale and Matthew McConaughey. 1.25 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.30 BBC News.**

BBC2

**6.25 Film: Tom Thumb. (1958) 7.55 Film: That's Entertainment! (1974) 10.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. 12.00 Raymond Blanc: How to Cook Well. (R) 12.30 The Best Dishes Ever. (R) 1.00 Gardeners' World. (R) 1.30 Live European Gymnastics Championships: Apparatus Finals. Coverage from Cluj. 4.30 Final Score. 5.15 Flog It! (R) 6.00 Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby. Giles Coren and Monica Galetti join the staff working in some of the most unusual hotels around the world. (R) 7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Hazel Irvine introduces coverage of the final session on day eight at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where one second-round match is due to finish and another set to begin. 8.00 BBC Young Dancer 2017. Anita Rani and Ore Oduba are joined by celebrated ballerina Darcey Bussell as they host coverage of the grand final of this year's Young Dancer of the Year contest. Over the course of the past months, entrants for the Street Dance, Ballet, South Asian and Contemporary categories have been whittled down to five finalists, with one act representing each discipline, along with a "wildcard" entrant. Now, Royal Ballet director Kevin O'Hare, choreographers Jasmine Vardimon, Marc Brew, Kate Prince and Kenneth Thorp, and Kathak dancer Nahid Siddiqui must decide which entrant will claim the title. Last in the series. 10.00 Ol' XL. An extended edition in which Stephen Fry is joined by Sandi Toksvig, Aisling Bea, Susan Calman and regular panellist Alan Davies to navigate the topic of mathematics. 10.45 Versailles. A high-profile poisoning leaves a coveted vacancy, while Philippe's exiled lover Chevalier is allowed home – so a new marriage must be arranged; (R) Inside Versailles. 11.45 Snooker: The World Championship. Highlights of the concluding session on day eight at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where another second-round match was scheduled to conclude. 12.35 Snooker: World Championship Extra. 2.35 Film: Blackthorn. (2011) 4.10 This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

**6.00 CITV: Bottom Knockor Street. 6.10 Bottom Knockor Street. (R) 6.25 Sooty. (R) 6.35 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 6.40 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.50 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 7.00 Oddbods. (R) 7.05 Marvel Avengers Assemble. (R) 7.30 Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) 7.55 NinjaGo: Masters of Spinjitzu. (R) 8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Weekend. 9.25 Film: Free Willy 3: The Rescue. (1997) 11.10 James Martin's French Adventure. (R) 12.10 ITV News: Weather. 12.25 Tipping Point. (R) 1.30 ITV Racing: Live from Ayr. Coverage from Ayr Racecourse. 4.30 Britain's Got More Talent. (R) 5.30 Catchphrase. (R) 6.15 Regional Programme; Weather. 6.30 ITV News: Weather. 6.45 Take Me Out. A group of men enters the "love lift" in the hope of impressing 30 single women and winning a date – but must first get the female participants to keep their lights on as a sign of approval. Paddy McGuinness presents. 8.00 Britain's Got Talent. More would-be entertainers hope to impress Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden, David Walliams and Alesha Dixon in the second round of the audition stage. 9.20 Through the Keyhole. Keith Lemon hosts the third series of the revival of the classic game show originally presented by David Frost. Visiting three mystery celebrity homes each week, he challenges an all-star panel to guess the identities of the famous occupants based on clues highlighted along each tour and the help of the studio audience. In this edition, the Celebrity Juice funnyman is joined by celebrity chef Gino D'Acampo, Coronation Street star Sue Cleaver (Eileen Grimshaw), and comedian and actor Johnny Vegas. (R) 10.25 ITV News: Weather. 10.40 Film: Bend It Like Beckham. (2002) A schoolgirl tries to keep her passion for football a secret from her parents – but then gets the chance to turn professional. Comedy, starring Parminder Nagra and Keira Knightley. 12.45 Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas. 3.00 Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

**6.15 Mobil 1 The Grid. 6.45 Motor Sport: British GT. 7.10 The King of Queens. (R) 7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.25 Frasier. (R) 8.55 Frasier. (R) 9.25 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 9.55 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.25 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.55 The Simpsons. (R) 11.25 The Simpsons. (R) 11.55 The Simpsons. (R) 12.25 Extreme Food. 12.55 Come Dine with Me. (R) 1.25 Come Dine with Me. (R) 1.55 Come Dine with Me. (R) 2.30 Come Dine with Me. (R) 3.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 3.30 A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. (R) 4.35 Location, Location, Location. (R) 5.35 Grand Designs. (R) 6.30 Channel 4 News. 6.55 Making Western Flag. A short film displaying artist John Gerrard's simulated impression of the Spindletop oil field in Texas, which was the site of the first major oil find of the Texas Oil Boom. 7.00 Escape to the Chateau. Fresh from the success of hosting a three-day wedding at the chateau, Dick and Angel make business plans for the grounds, intending to charge people to fish in the moat and forage in the woods. Angel starts work on a second guest suite, but also wants to install an elevator, which pushes Dick's engineering skills to the limit. (R) 8.00 Man Made Planet: Earth from Space. Tim Peake and some of his fellow astronauts make use of full-profile images of Earth to detail the remarkable impact human civilisation has had on the planet's landscape. 9.00 Film: Dracula Untold. (2014) Premiere. A Romanian knight fights to defend his homeland against Turkish invaders. Faced with overwhelming odds, he enters into a dangerous bargain to gain supernatural powers so he can drive off his enemies – but the deal could cost him his humanity as he transforms into a terrifying monster. Fantasy adventure, starring Luke Evans. 10.45 Film: The Eagle. (2011) A Roman centurion and his British slave journey into the wilds of Scotland to recover the standard of a lost legion. Action adventure, starring Channing Tatum and Jamie Bell. 12.55 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) 1.45 Hollyoaks. (R) 3.50 Location, Location, Location. (R)**

CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake! 10.20 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 10.55 Access. 11.00 Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R) 11.20 Police Interceptors. (R) 12.20 On Benefits: UK's Most Hated Woman? (R) 1.15 On Benefits: Desperately Seeking Stardom. (R) 2.15 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) 3.15 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) 4.15 Nightmare Tenants. Slum Landlords: Revisited 2. (R) 5.10 Can't Pay Special: Big Family Bust Up. (R) 6.10 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. The agents try to recover more than £12,000 owed by a jeweller to one of his suppliers, but as the tension mounts, the debtor violently lashes out at one of the officers. Meanwhile, agents in London chase up more than £5,000 owed by a tenant to her former landlord for rent arrears, and also attempt to retrieve over £6,000 owed by a property developer. (R) 7.10 NCIS: Los Angeles. The team is forced to establish whether the gunning down of a man outside the Vietnamese Consulate is an isolated incident or a terrorist attack. 8.00 NCIS. The agents quickly close a seemingly cut-and-dried case, but as they all leave the office at the end of the day, they each begin to spot flaws in their investigation. 8.55 5 News Weekend. 9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Burton Albion v Leeds United and Sheffield Wednesday v Derby County. 10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the weekend's games in League One and Two. 10.30 The Funny Side of Growing Up. Johnny Vegas and a variety of well-known British stars take an irreverent look back at the process of growing into adulthood. 11.30 Comedy Bigmouths with Rory Bremner. Ian Stone takes aim at current affairs of the past seven days, with help from Zoe Lyons, Geoff Norcott and Jo Caulfield. 12.00 SuperCasino. 3.10 Film: Creep. (2004) 4.35 Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R) 5.00 Access.**

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Dan Cruickshank: At Home with the British **8.00** Tankies: Tank Heroes of World War II **9.00 Film:** Department Q: A Conspiracy of Faith (2016) **10.45** Top of the Pops: 1983 **12.00** Sinatra: All or Nothing at All **1.55** Songs the Great American Songbook **2.55** Duets at the BBC **3.55** Close **ITV2**  
**11.55** Take Me Out **1.00** You've Been Framed! **1.35** Film: See Spot Run (2001) **2.35** FYI Daily **2.40** Film: See Spot Run (2001) **3.30** Film: Hotel Transylvania (2012) **4.30** FYI Daily **4.35** Film: Hotel Transylvania (2012) **5.15** Film: The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013) **6.20** FYI Daily **6.25** Film: The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013) **8.25** Scorpion **9.20** Britain's Got More Talent **10.25** Celebrity Juice **11.10** Family Guy **12.35** American Dad! **1.05** Film: That Awkward Moment (2014) **2.05** FYI Daily **2.20** Film: That Awkward Moment (2014) **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3**  
**11.45** Agatha Christie's Marple **1.45** An Audience with Victoria Wood **2.55** Housewife, 49 **4.55** Film: The Queen (2006) **5.55** FYI Daily **6.00** Film: The Queen (2006) **7.00** Midsummer Murders **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** Lewis **1.05** Wycliffe **2.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping **ITVA**  
**11.55** Pawn Stars **2.10** British Touring Car Championship Highlights **3.45** Film: Shalako (1968) **4.45** FYI Daily **4.50** Film: Shalako (1968) **6.00** It's Not Rocket Science **7.00** Fierce **8.00** The Chase Celebrity Special **9.05** Film: Patriot Games (1992) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10** Film: Patriot Games (1992) **11.25** Film: Exit Wounds (2001) **12.25** FYI Daily **12.30** Film: Exit Wounds (2001) **1.35** Minder **2.35** Tommy Cooper **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**  
**11.30** The Goldbergs **12.30** Film: Bridge to Terabithia (2007) **2.30** Film: We Bought a Zoo (2011) **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: American Reunion (2012) **11.15** Gogglebox **12.50** Rude Tube: Ultimate Champions **1.55** Tattoo Fixers **2.55** Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D **3.40** Black-ish **4.00** The Mindy Project **Film4**  
**11.05** Chalet Girl (2011) **1.00** Rio 2 (2014) **3.00** St Trinian's 2: The Legend of Fritton's Gold (2009) **5.05** Fantastic Four (2005) **7.10** Airplane! (1980) **9.00** The Day After Tomorrow (2004) **11.20** Dog Soldiers (2002)

# Tasty and healthy start to the year at Bangla Lounge

Commercial feature

**INDIAN restaurant Bangla Lounge has been a popular fixture on Halesowen's High Street for more than a decade, attracting a loyal clientele with its mouth-watering range of traditional favourites and in-house specialities.**

Head chef Abdul Ahad, who has worked for manager Bari Azad and his family for more than 20 years, continues to bring creative flair to traditional dishes as well as creating his own delicious specialities.

Recent additions to the extensive menu include lamb curry which is slow cooked with garlic and ginger.

There are plenty of options for vegetarians and for fish lovers including salmon, prawn and white fish.

Offer

Mr Azad said: "Because people traditionally like to keep a tight rein on their purses and wallets in January, we're introducing a new offer on Friday and Saturday evenings when diners can enjoy any starter, any main course, rice or naan, or vegetable dish plus ice cream and coffee for just £13.95. This offer is available for a limited period only."

Diners visiting on any evening between Sunday and Thursday can enjoy a two-for-one offer on main courses (eat in only, terms and conditions apply).

Bangla Lounge is aware that some weight conscious diners will be aiming to shed a few pounds in early 2017 and will be serving wholemeal bread and rice on request plus lower fat dishes.

The friendly staff are more than happy to



The stylish interior of popular Halesowen restaurant Bangla Lounge, where new dishes have been added to the menu

advise on the healthier options that are available on the menu.

If you are planning a celebration in 2017, the restaurant's upstairs function room, which can cater for up to 40

diners, is a popular venue for work parties, birthdays and anniversaries. Call to discuss your exact requirements.

Takeaways are also available for a 20 per cent discount and free home

delivery within a three mile radius of the restaurant.

For more details, or to book a table, call 0121 585 7020 or visit www.banglaloungehalesowen.co.uk



Bangla Lounge is a popular fixture on Halesowen's High Street



CHOICE



Robson Green (left)

**Grantchester (ITV, 9pm)**  
New series. The return of the detective drama set in the 1950s, starring James Norton and Robson Green. Sidney receives a series of anonymous phone calls, which he realises may be linked to a series of murders in which the victims were all important community figures killed by someone who leaves dead birds as a grisly calling card. The threat forces Sidney to question whether he can reconcile his relationship with Amanda and his calling as a vicar. Leonard bonds with Hilary as she cares for her dying father, while Georgie's investigation of the killings leads him to a mysterious home for people with disabilities.

BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **7.25** Match of the Day. (R) **8.30** London Marathon. Live coverage of the 37th staging of the annual event. **3.00** BBC News: Weather. **3.15** Regional Programme. **4.30** Points of View. **4.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.15** Songs of Praise. **5.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **6.35** BBC News. **6.50** Regional Programme. **7.00** Countryfile. The team explores County Durham, where Matt Baker demonstrates how to make a traditional regional dish and Ellie Harrison takes a trip up the River Tees. Sean Fletcher meets a boy scout pack involved in wildlife projects. Tom Heap reports on fly tipping, and Adam Henson meets beef farmers who feed their cows on grass alone. Including weather for the week ahead. **8.00** Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Senate House in Bloomsbury, Britain's oldest skyscraper and administrative centre of the University of London. Items under valuation include the hoof of a horse that fought in the Battle of Balacava, a collection of stained glass panels that were recovered from a skip, and a diamond and platinum bracelet. **9.00** Line of Duty. DCI Roz Huntley struggles to ally her husband's suspicions and AC12 find a new angle to pursue their case against her in the penultimate episode of Jed Mercurio's police drama. **10.00** BBC News. **10.20** Regional Programme. **10.30** Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, featuring Burnley v Manchester United at Turf Moor and Liverpool v Crystal Palace at Anfield. **11.20** Match of the Day. **The FA Cup.** Arsenal v Manchester City. Action from the concluding semi-final at Wembley Stadium, as the line-up for the showpiece match was confirmed. **11.50** The Women's Football Show. Elidh Barbour presents a look at the biggest issues in the women's game, focusing on matters at both club and international level. **12.30** I'm Different: Let Me Drive. **1.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

**6.00** Around the World in 80 Gardens. (R) **7.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **7.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **8.00** Countryfile. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The afternoon session on day nine at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield. **6.00** The London Marathon Highlights. Ore Oduba presents action from the 37th staging of the annual event, which saw tens of thousands of runners take on the famous 26.2-mile course. **7.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. Jason Mohammad introduces coverage of the final session on day nine at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where two more second-round matches continue. Eight frames are scheduled to take place on both tables, with the players returning to the green baize having started their matches this morning. **8.00** Top Gear. Another helping of four-wheel features, including test drives and reports on the latest models, plus a celebrity taking to the show's test track in Star in a Reasonably Priced Car. **9.00** The Crucible: 40 Golden Snooker Years. Steve Davis goes back to the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield to celebrate 40 years of the world snooker championship, talking to some of the players forever ingrained in the sport's history. The venue has become the home of snooker since the championships moved there in 1977, helping to create memorable moments and scenes of drama that live on to this day. Featuring interviews with former champions Stephen Hendry and Dennis Taylor, six-time runner-up and fans' favourite Jimmy White, and celebrity snooker addicts Richard Osman and Stephen Fry. **10.00** The Rack Pack. Comedy drama based on the glory days of professional snooker in the 1980s and the rivalry between Alex "Hurricane" Higgins and Steve Davis. (R) **11.30** Snooker: The World Championship. **12.20** Snooker: World Championship Extra. **2.20** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.15** Holby City. (R) **4.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00** CITV: Bottom Knockor Street. **6.10** Bottom Knockor Street. (R) **6.25** Sooty. (R) **6.35** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Outdoors. (R) **7.05** Marvel Avengers Assemble. (R) **7.30** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **7.55** NinjaGo: Masters of Spinjitzu. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Countrywise: Guide to Britain. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** Film: Carry On Again Doctor. (1969) **12.45** ITV News: Weather. **12.55** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **1.55** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **3.15** Film: You Only Live Twice. (1967) **5.30** Regional Programme : Weather. **5.45** ITV News: Weather. **6.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special. Emmerdale's Natalie Anderson (Alicia), actress Patsy Kensit, broadcaster Esther Rantzen and singer-presenter Brian McFadden take on a trivia expert for charity. Bradley Walsh hosts. (R) **7.00** Bigheads. New series. Jason Manfred hosts the comedy game show in which contestants compete in a series of bizarre physical challenges while wearing giant model heads of celebrities. **8.00** The Durrells. New series. Louisa tries to raise some money by selling homemade food, which attracts the attention of another Englishman. However, a former lover threatens the family's plans. **9.00** Grantchester. New series. Sidney receives a series of anonymous phone calls, which he realises may be linked to a series of murders in which the victims were all important community figures. **10.00** ITV News: Weather. **10.20** Lethal Weapon. When a million dollar casino heist takes a deadly turn, Riggs befriends the only credible witness – an eight-year-old boy – and takes him into his care. Clayne Crawford stars. (R) **11.20** The Nightly Show Best Bits. Highlights of the final week, with Dermot O'Leary presenting topical monologues, studio games, celebrity guests, stand-up and video clips. Last in the series. **11.50** Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with ITV News National Editor Allegra Stratton. (R) **12.40** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights. (R)

CHANNEL 4

**6.20** The King of Queens. (R) **6.45** The King of Queens. (R) **7.10** The King of Queens. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** Film: Robots. (2005) Animated adventure, with the voice of Ewan McGregor. **3.20** Film: Mission: Impossible. (1996) Action thriller, starring Tom Cruise. **5.25** George Clarke's Old House, New Home. (R) **6.30** Channel 4 News. **6.50** Film: Thor. (2011) The Norse god of thunder is banished from his own world when his arrogance puts the kingdom on the brink of war. He is sent to present-day Earth, where he is forced to live among humans without his supernatural powers, but must regain his abilities to defend his new home against his evil brother. Kenneth Branagh's fantasy adventure based on the Marvel comics, starring Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman, Tom Hiddleston and Anthony Hopkins. Edited for language. **9.00** The Island with Bear Grylls. New series. The fourth series of the survival challenge takes on a new approach, featuring two teams from different generations who are marooned on separate islands to see which age group is better able to cope with hardship. The older group, led by 66-year-old Frank, get off to a good start and soon manage to light a fire. However, the other team, under the command of its youngest member 18-year-old Freddie, get lost in the dense jungle and spend days trying to purify drinking water while suffering from exhaustion and dehydration. **10.00** Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R) **11.00** Man Made Planet: Earth from Space. Tim Peake and some of his fellow astronauts make use of full-profile images of Earth to detail the remarkable impact human civilisation has had on the planet's landscape. (R) **12.00** Film: The Sessions. (2012) **1.45** The Last Leg. (R) **2.40** Location, Location, Location. (R) **3.35** Gillette World Sport. **4.00** KOTV Boxing Weekly. **4.25** Mobil 1 The Grid. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Mr Men. **6.10** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.15** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.20** Paw Patrol. (R) **6.35** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.45** Fireman Sam. (R) **6.55** Only the Little White Van. **7.00** Only the Little White Van. **7.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.20** Blaze and the Monster Machines. **7.45** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **7.55** Wisper. (R) **8.10** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.25** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **8.50** Little Princess. (R) **9.10** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.20** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.30** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.35** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.45** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.20** Access. **10.25** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.20** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **11.55** The Gadget Show. (R) **12.55** Film: The Deep End of the Ocean. (1999) Drama, starring Michelle Pfeiffer. **3.00** Yorkshire: A Year in the Wild. (R) **4.00** Yorkshire: A Year in the Wild. (R) **5.00** Yorkshire: A Year in the Wild. (R) **6.00** Yorkshire: A Year in the Wild. As winter takes its toll, cameras follow grey seal pups at Ravenscar Beach, and the progress of many short-eared owls that land on the moors. (R) **6.50** 5 News Weekend. **6.55** Film: U-571. (2000) American forces board a stricken Nazi submarine at the height of the Second World War in the hope of seizing an Enigma coding machine, but German reinforcements arrive, forcing them to flee in the unfamiliar craft. Action adventure, starring Matthew McConaughey, Harvey Keitel, Bill Paxton and Jon Bon Jovi. Edited for language. Includes 5 News Update at 7.55pm. **9.00** Film: 3 Days to Kill. (2014) Premiere. A CIA agent learns he is dying, and decides to quit the agency so he can spend his last few months trying to rebuild his relationship with his estranged daughter. He is tempted to go back on his word when an old colleague offers him an experimental drug that could save his life – if he agrees to carry out one last mission. Action thriller, starring Kevin Costner, Amber Heard and Halpie Steinfeld. Includes 5 News Update at 10pm. **11.05** Film: Chaos. (2005) Crime thriller, starring Jason Statham. **1.05** SuperCasino. **3.10** Body of Proof. (R) **4.00** Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R) **4.50** House Doctor. (R) **5.15** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** The Sun **8.00** The Moon **9.00** Horizon: Seeing Stars **10.00** The Sky at Night **11.00** K2: The Killer Summit: Storeville **12.20** The Sun **1.25** The Moon **2.20** K2: The Killer Summit: Storeville **3.45** Close  
**ITV3**  
**1.00** 2 Awesome **1.05** 2 Awesome: Guidance **2.05** 2 Awesome: LA Story **2.20** 2 Awesome: Side Effects **2.55** Best of You've Been Framed! **Gold** **3.55** Britain's Got Talent **5.15** Britain's Got More Talent **6.15** Film: The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (2014) **7.15** FYI Daily **7.20** Film: The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (2014) **9.00** Take Me Out – The Gossip **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.25** The Cleveland Show **1.25** The Vampire Diaries **2.15** Teleshopping  
**ITV3**  
**11.20** Film: Columbo: Short Fuse (1972) **12.55** Foyle's War **3.00** Our Queen at 90 **5.00** When Philip Met Prince Philip: 60 Years of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Morecambe and Wise Forever **10.00** Ruth Rendell's Thirteen Steps Down **12.05** Wycliffe **1.15** A Touch of Frost **3.00** May the Best House Win **4.40** In Loving Memory **5.30** ITV3 Nightscreen  
**ITV4**  
**12.45** Film: Shalako (1968) **1.50** FYI Daily **1.55** Film: Shalako (1968) **3.00** Film: The Man from the Alamo (1953) **4.00** FYI Daily **4.05** Film: The Man from the Alamo (1953) **4.40** Film: The Hanging Tree (1959) **5.40** FYI Daily **5.45** Film: The Hanging Tree (1959) **6.55** Fishing Impossible **9.00** Benidorm **10.05** Film: The Naked Gun: From the Files of Police Squad! (1988) **11.10** FYI Daily **11.15** Film: The Naked Gun: From the Files of Police Squad! (1988) **11.50** BRDC Formula 3 Championship Highlights **12.55** Fifth Gear **1.55** Paula Radcliffe: Sports Life Stories  
**E4**  
**4.00** Film: Percy Jackson & the Lightning Thief (2010) **6.20** Rudest! Tube Shorts **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Tattoo Fixers **12.05** E4's Tattoo Artist of the Year **1.10** Celebrity First Dates **2.15** Naked Attraction  
**Film4**  
**11.00** Flight of the Navigator (1986) **1.00** The Princess Diaries (2001) **3.15** The Borrowers (1997) **5.00** Rat Race (2001) **7.10** Airplane II: The Sequel (1982) **9.00** The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1 (2014) **11.20** Friends with Benefits (2011) **1.30** The Players (2012)

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FILM CHOICES

**MONDAY**  
**Welcome to the Jungle**, Channel 5, 11.05pm  
A bounty hunter is sent into the depths of the Brazilian rainforest to locate a prominent businessman's son, but ends up trying to find a legendary artefact before a crook gets his hands on it. Action comedy, starring Dwayne Johnson, Seann William Scott and Christopher Walken, and an uncredited cameo by Arnold Schwarzenegger. (2003)

**TUESDAY**  
**Kidnapping Lizzie: Nightmare Visions**, Channel 5, 3.15pm  
When 15-year-old Lizzie is kidnapped, her amicably divorced parents Judith and Martin are devastated when the police can find no trace of her. A psychic comes forward claiming to know the teenager's whereabouts, but it soon becomes clear she has an agenda of her own. Thriller, starring Nadia Bjorlin, Richard Ruccolo and Vanessa Evigan. (2016)



Fright Night, Friday, BBC1, 11.55pm

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Running for Her Life**, Channel 5, 3.15pm  
Amateur triathlete Alison Wynn hires a controversial trainer who uses hypnotherapy as a training technique and begins to improve physically, but the return of repressed memories takes a toll on her family life. Alison's daughter soon grows concerned and works to save her mother from the psychologically-manipulative coach. (2016)

**THURSDAY**  
**Deadly Departure**, Channel 5, 3.15pm  
The family of FBI agent Sarah Plummer are taken hostage while she is on a flight to Washington, DC. While on the flight, she meets a mysterious stranger seated beside her, and is forced to make a decision that could cost her the lives of her husband and 12-year-old son. Action, starring Dina Meyer. (2016)

**FRIDAY**  
**Fright Night**, BBC1, 11.55pm  
A teenager realises his new neighbour is a vampire, but cannot convince anyone of the danger they are in. He turns to a magician with a horror-themed Las Vegas show to help him. Comedy horror remake, with Anton Yelchin and Colin Farrell. (2011)

Dave feels the pressure to bring the killer to justice

On August 22, 2007, 11-year-old Rhys Jones was walking home from football practice in the Croxeth Park area of Liverpool when he was shot in the back by hooded youth riding a silver mountain bike aiming at members of a rival mob.

Rhys' mum Melanie rushed to the scene when she heard what had happened, but by the time she had reached him, he was unconscious.

Paramedics tried for over an hour and a half to resuscitate him, but Rhys was later pronounced dead at Alder Hey Children's Hospital.

As well as being the star player for his team, Rhys was a dedicated supporter of Everton FC, and had a season ticket along with his father and brother.

The club's players laid a floral tribute, boots and shirts at the scene of the crime, while players, staff and fans paid tribute to him in a minute-long applause at the home game against Blackburn Rovers three days after his death.

Over 2,500 mourners attended

Rhys' funeral at Liverpool Anglican Cathedral on September 6, with Everton footballer Alan Stubbs reading from the Bible during the service.

In the days, weeks and months following Rhys' death, more than 300 police officers and gun crime specialists were being deployed in the hunt for his killer.

This new drama chronicles the tragedy which shook the city of Liverpool and the nation as a whole, and looks at how Rhys' killer, Sean Mercer, and his associates were finally caught and prosecuted.

Liverpudlian actor Stephen Graham (Boardwalk Empire, This is England and Taboo) leads the cast as Detective Superintendent Dave Kelly, who led the investigation into Rhys's murder on behalf of Merseyside Police.

Sinead Keenan and Bryan F O'Byrne play Rhys's grieving parents Melanie and Steve.

In tonight's first episode, DS Kelly is charged with bringing Rhys

teenage killer to justice, but although the assailant's identity is well known, finding the evidence to charge him proves to be a far more difficult challenge.

The show's writer and executive producer Jeff Pope has made his name with this type of dark, real-life drama.

As well as penning the scripts for Mrs Biggs, about Great Train Robber Ronnie Biggs' wife, and The Widower about serial murderer Malcolm Webster, he also ex-produced Appropriate Adult exploring the crimes of Fred and Rosemary West.

For Little Boy Blue, Pope and the cast and crew have recreated the moving moment when Rhys' parents and brother bravely lined up in front of the crowd at Goodison Park to pay tribute to the murdered boy.

With the Z Cars theme playing as they walked onto the pitch, applause rang out around the stadium for a one-minute tribute in his memory.



Stephen Graham stars in Little Boy Blue, Monday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

turned 41 last month, has admitted he is taking on 'the best of the young generation'. So who will come out on top over 12 rounds in London at the weekend? This insightful portrait shows Joshua's preparations for the big fight.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**How to Live Mortgage Free with Sarah Beeny**, Channel 4, 8pm

Some people might think it's easy to live mortgage free with Sarah Beeny – you just move in and let her pay the bills using her Property Ladder money. But seeing as we can't all fit in her spare room, she's meeting people around the country who have managed to buy their own home without racking up huge debts. This week, that includes a twentysomething couple who are building their first home together on the back of an agricultural trailer for £25,000 and a woman in West Yorkshire who managed to convert three derelict garages into a stunning work and living space for just £12,000. We also hear from the couple who halved their building costs by creating their two-bed home inside some shipping containers.



Anthony Joshua: The Road to Klitschko, Tuesday, BBC1, 10.45pm

**THURSDAY**  
**Mind Over Marathon**, BBC1, 9pm

Nick Knowles presents the conclusion of the two-part documentary following a group of runners with mental health issues as they train for the London Marathon. The remaining runners attempt longer and longer distances and even travel to Wales for a mountain run. They are taking part in the marathon with Heads Together, a campaign led by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry - and the royal trio turn up to a training session to meet the runners and hear their stories. It proves a massive boost to the runners, but will it be enough to get them to the finishing line?

**The Last Kingdom**, BBC2, 9pm  
Aethelflaed goes missing, and her newlywed husband Aethelred returns to Winchester to deliver the news to Alfred.

With the realm in chaos, Odda finds himself questioning whether the will of his king and the good of the kingdom might now be at odds. Having dispatched his own son for failing to remain loyal to the crown in the past, will Odda now follow his lead and turn against Alfred? Meanwhile, Uhtred returns home to Gisela, and tries to uncover the truth about Aethelflaed's disappearance by his own means. However, own actions once again come back to haunt him when he finally comes face-to-face with Sigefrid, the Viking warlord he mutilated during his campaign in Northumbria. Confronted with an impossible decision, Uhtred suddenly finds the future of Wessex resting on his shoulders. Historical drama, starring Alexander Dreymon.

**FRIDAY**  
**Lethal Weapon**, ITV, 9pm  
Strong-willed viewers may still be working their way through their Easter eggs but it's Christmas in California, and the precinct is getting ready to celebrate. However, the festive mood is ruined when the officers are called to investigate a murder that's been linked to Eddie Flores, the deranged nephew of an infamous drug lord who has run-up against Riggs before. That's not the only ghost of Christmas past that's haunting the volatile cop.

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# BRAIN GYM

No.426

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

	19		15		3		20	15	26	7	7
1	25	12	22	20	2	9	7			4	
14		14		17			4	7	25	2	5
12	14	6	8	21	16	8	22	17			7
	8				7				24		10
15	5	14	12	21	8	21		4	8	15	10
	9				7				5		
18	15	17	9	21		3	15	17	17	8	21
13		13		8		17					R
7				5	8	16	8	15	17	12	18
6	2	15	17	8		25		8		1	
	15			8		18	17	12	21	21	25
15	11	12	7	14		18		23		8	

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
S	V	R	D	G	Y	E	H	T	Q	J	C	Z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
W	O	F	A	U	K	I	B	P	N	L	X	M

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

### Cryptic Clues:

#### Across

- Traffic sign erected by the socialists? (4,4)
- Alternative letters for flex (4)
- Clever - gets blockhead to take drink round (4)
- Matches won't work? (8)
- Command a class (5)
- Music for when students have fun? (7)
- Will serve as a gift at this time (3,3,7)
- Royal Automobile Club cared about record of runners (4,4)
- Eager to help about five (4)
- Carefully look at returned axe belonging to me (7)
- Questionable - like an angler's tale? (5)
- Quantity thus given to the first person (4)
- The usual flag (8)

#### Down

- Prohibition - leave when you've got me back to the bar! (7)
- Excuse before biblical quotation (7)
- Ideal prospects, despite being tense after 13? (6,7)
- Former 8 period (3-4)
- Cut up little Diana's religious group (7)
- Not a better half? (6)
- Counterfeiting blacksmiths? (7)
- To get back could be a miracle (7)
- The C-i-C is extremely busy (6)
- Ocean flier arrived as bride changed (7)
- Therein both are excluded (7)

1	2		3			4		5	6		7
								8			
9					10						
11						12					
13		14		15				16		17	
18								19			
20										21	
22						23					

### Quick Clues:

#### Across

- Odd (8)
- Just (4)
- Bill of fare (4)
- Seemed (8)
- Less (5)
- Entangle (7)
- Sympathy (6-7)
- Completely (8)
- Large town (4)
- Disorder (7)
- Rebuffs (5)
- Unintelligent (4)
- Critic (8)

#### Down

- Hermit (7)
- Strange (7)
- Cherished thing (5,2,3,3)
- Deductively (1,6)
- Danger signal (3,4)
- Weak (6)
- Inundated (7)
- To the letter (7)
- East (6)
- A permit (7)
- Memorable (7)

## Sudoku

5		9		1				
	3		7				5	1
			5		9	2		
1		3	4	2				
8						6		3
		5		3	6	7		2
	1	6	9		4			
4					8		7	
			2	7		5		4

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	7	4	6	8	9	1	2	3
8	3	9	4	2	1	7	5	6
6	2	1	7	5	3	4	9	8
4	6	2	5	7	8	3	1	9
3	9	7	1	6	2	8	4	5
1	5	8	9	3	4	2	6	7
7	4	3	2	9	5	6	8	1
2	8	5	3	1	6	9	7	4
9	1	6	8	4	7	5	3	2

### LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:

CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Impact; 4 Knocks; 9 Steering wheel; 10 Crossed; 11 Elude; 12 Adore; 14 Debar; 18 Tarts; 19 Decline; 21 Window cleaner; 22 Dreads; 23 Stalls. Down: 1 Insect; 2 Preponderance; 3 Cards; 5 Nowhere; 6 Cooeducational; 7 Solver; 8 Anode; 13 Respond; 15 Stowed; 16 Edict; 17 Hearts; 20 Crest. QUICK - Across: 1 Impose; 4 Compel; 9 Pervasiveness; 10 Drastic; 11 Raise; 12 Adore; 14 Undue; 18 Class; 19 Excused; 21 Accident-prone; 22 Enlist; 23 Arrest. Down: 1 Impede; 2 Part and parcel; 3 Smart; 5 Overrun; 6 Precious stone; 7 Lessen; 8 Since; 13 Resides; 15 Scrape; 16 Means; 17 Advent; 20 Capar.

## Quiz

- What does the Mohs scale measure?
- With which art form is Norman Rockwell associated?
- From which drink is Calvados distilled?
- Which actress was born Emilie Charlotte le Breton?
- What is Europe's largest inland port?
- Which group of plants has blue-green, yellow-green and gold-brown varieties?
- Of which church are the sacred writings called the Divine Principle?
- In which TV series did Lionel Stander play Max?
- Whom did Idi Amin depose in 1971?
- Of which ocean is the Beaufort Sea a section?

### Last week's solutions:

- Quiz: 1 New Zealand; 2 Prince Charles; 3 Partridge; 4 Minerva; 5 Robert Schumann; 6 Flushing; 7 Onion; 8 French; 9 Macaque; 10 The Warner Brothers.
- Niner: UNIVERSAL

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

83412  
5249  
42167927

gives a Swedish actress,  
gives a British actress,  
gives a Romanian-born American actor.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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# Why it's the Bel-gium of the ball

AS a man who avoids buying clothes until his jeans are almost threadbare, my sense of fashion could be described as inept.

I know vintage handbags can be a serious investment and Jimmy Choo is a shoemaker. But that's about it. So as my train rolls into Antwerp, Belgium's second city and one of Europe's biggest fashion and design hubs, I begin to wish I'd invested a bit more time and effort in my wardrobe.

Fortunately, the city's sense of style extends way beyond clothing. In terms of both architecture – and attitude – Antwerp, I soon discover, is seriously cool.

The journey to Antwerp takes three hours from London via Brussels on the Eurostar, so it's within relatively easy, hassle-free reach.

I disembark at the striking Antwerp Central Station, rated as one of the most beautiful train stations in the world for its striking stone and marble interior. Although originally built in the late 19th century, it's a mishmash of architectural styles.

Eclectic

"It's got a few influences," our cycle tour guide, Nicolas de Belder, from Cyclant tells me, as we tour around the city on two wheels.

"Antwerp is very eclectic," he continues, giving me a brief history of the city that's home to around 500,000 inhabitants.

An important trading centre for sugar in the 1500s, it's now best known for its diamond and chemical industries. It's also one of the busiest ports in Europe and more important to Germany than Hamburg – or so Nicolas claims.

I've learned so much in my brief time in the city already, but there's more to come. Nicolas' lessons extend beyond economics and design, to encompass a thorough explanation on how to take a bike on an escalator.

City slicker – with a clear view of Antwerp



There are few bridges in Antwerp, making tunnels underneath the river Scheldt the best crossing points. Many are accessed via escalators, and city cyclists learn from a young age that the correct way to carry a bike on these moving stairways is to lock the front wheel against a step, creating a 'T' shape.

I pop out on the river's left bank, a far quieter part of the city with spectacular views across to the old town and Antwerp's port. Rising high above the building tops is the spire of the Gothic Cathedral of Our Lady. The adjacent tower was never finished, only reaching a third

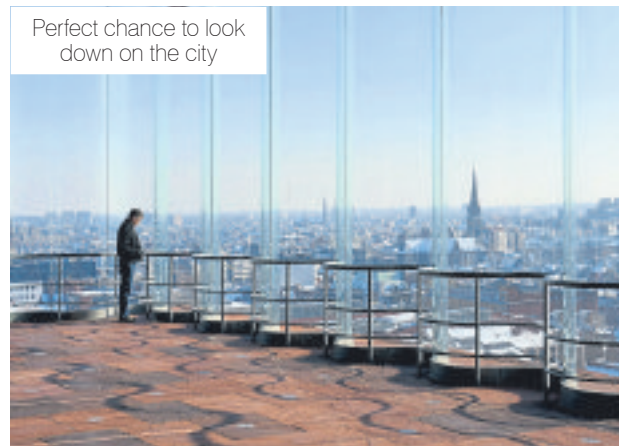
of its intended height. In a country as flat as Belgium, anything tall is a major attraction, and Antwerp's cathedral is no exception.

The viewing platform atop the Museum aan de Stroom (MAS), is far more accessible. The building is a prime example of contemporary architecture and reflects the city's trading history and modern industrial focus.

Beer, is ubiquitous in Belgium, so I'm happy to be heading to De Koninck brewery.

It has been pumping out a fine selection of liquid

Perfect chance to look down on the city



amber since 1833, and the site has evolved to include a butcher, cheesemonger, bakery, chocolate shop and even a cycling store. Refreshingly, there is a ban on any chain retailers.

Back in the city centre, walking off my liquid lunch, I stroll along Schuttershofstraat, where Chanel and Burberry sit alongside local designer stores Natan and Coccodrillo. Perhaps I don't fully appreciate the city's concept stores and trend-setting designs, but what I've discovered in Antwerp is style, innovation and imagination to boot.

NICK MCAVANEY

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**2**

E-mail us at...  
mark.moore@expressandstar.co.uk

**3**

Post to...  
Mark Moore, Halesowen Chronicle, Black Lake Regional Centre, West Bromwich B70 0QB



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## Free Ads

**IT'S FREE IT'S EASY**

For items up to **£250**  
**VISIT:**

[bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk](http://bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk)

Simply press the free ad icon.  
Sorry, no pets, guns or livestock.  
Private advertisers only.

## Place a paid for advert

**By Phone 01902 317878**  
8.30am - 5.30pm Mon - Fri.  
Closed Sat/Sun and Bank Holidays

**Online**  
[bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk](http://bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk)

**In person**  
At your local Express & Star Office.  
Cancel/amend, call before 3.00pm  
Monday - Friday for the next day's  
advertisement or also before 3.00pm  
Friday for Monday's advertisement.

**funeral directors**

**N.E.DOWNING**  
(Blackheath) Ltd

Independent family run  
Funeral Directors

24 hour service  
Halesowen  
0121 422 2794  
[www.nedowning.co.uk](http://www.nedowning.co.uk)

**monumental masons**

**HALESTONE MEMORIALS**  
Modern and traditional memorials

Ring for FREE brochure  
**0121 550 4235**

Or visit our showroom at  
**Somers Road, Halesowen B62 8EN**  
[www.halestonememorials.co.uk](http://www.halestonememorials.co.uk)

**1 Family**

**elderly & disabled**

**MOBILITY SCOOTER**  
Very good condition. Four wheeled scooter, that will fit in a car boot. Can deliver if he helps.  
£275.  
07905 770683.

**MOBILITY SCOOTERS** from £350 can deliver, servicing available. Call: Powerlink, Blackheath 01364 255019 / 07831 246292.

**WREKIN STAIRLIFTS** reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

**2 Leisure Time**

**bikes**

**AVOCET CONNECT** eco / power assisted bike, for sale due to illness, hardly used, cost £650, sell £475.  
07500 832780

**TANDEM FOR SALE** red, good condition, Wednesfield area, £120. Call 07790 750455.

**car boot sales**

**\*BEST SUNDAY\* BOOTSALE**  
Only £5 per Car/Van.  
7AM START. Cocksparrow Lane, Cannock WS12 4PB  
**\*07890 267 041\***

**\*BEST WEDNESDAY & SATURDAY BOOTSALE**  
Now at Ivy House Farm, A461, Springfield, Muckley Corner Lichfield WS14 0BX  
**\*07890 267041\***

**IT'S BACK IT'S BACK MIDLANDS BIGGEST CAR BOOT SALE**

**SELLERS TURN UP FROM 6AM**

**THIS SUNDAY AND EVERY SUNDAY**  
Now at Dark Lane, Featherstone WV10 7HT  
Just off main A460.  
1 minute from J11 M6  
1 minute J1 M54  
6 am - 2 pm

**All enquiries Tel: 07831 192 116**  
Or for more information visit [www.gocarbootsales.com](http://www.gocarbootsales.com)

**\*BIGGEST SATURDAY\* BOOTSALE**  
Catering positions available  
A454 Ridge Heath between Wolverhampton and Bridgnorth By Royal Oak pub island WV6 7EE  
**\*07890 267 041\***

**caravans / motorhomes**

**We Want Your Motorhome**  
Finance Cleared  
Fast Secure Payment  
Top Prices Paid

Please Call  
**AEG on 01384 848439** or  
**Lee Jinks on 07740 895448**  
[www.aegmotorhomes.co.uk](http://www.aegmotorhomes.co.uk)

**BAILEY ORION 430/4**, 2011, 4 berth, motor mover, alloys, microwave, etc. 1 owner, many extras, excellent condition, £9,400. 01299 879591.

**SIX BERTH CARAVAN**  
Site fees pays for 2017, nice, quiet sought after sight with a 12 month residential licence, no age limit.

Also A Class Mercedes Benz, 12 months Mot.  
£28,000.  
07564 964588.

**STATIC CARAVAN**  
Atlas Status Super 35 x 12ft 2 bedroomed caravan on quiet Mid Wales site, with fishing pools.

£7,500 ono.  
01686 413544.

**MUST BE SEEN**

**SWIFT CHALLENGER 530**  
2006, 4-berth, Motor Mover, 2 new tyres, new battery, reluctant sale, excellent condition.  
£5,995 ovno.  
07814 817506.

**fishing**

**FISHING TACKLE WANTED**  
anything considered. New or Old  
01902 751 086 or 07931 568716

**jumble sales / fetes**

**BRIC-A-BRAC FAIR**  
Sunday 23rd April  
Next Sale: 30th April  
KINVER COMMUNITY CENTRE  
DY7 6ER  
10.30am - 4pm  
Tel: 01384 894464

**music shop**

**ELECTRIC ORGAN** very good condition, selling due to bereavement, £400. Buyer to collect. 01568 708151.

**holidays**

**caravan parks**

**LUXURY HOLIDAY HOME** for sale on 5\* park. Golf, fishing, bar & restaurant, pet friendly £24,995 inc. 2017 site fees [www.pearlilake.co.uk](http://www.pearlilake.co.uk)  
01568 708 326

**self catering holidays**

**BURNHAM-ON-SEA**  
Self Catering Holiday Apartments  
Disabled Facilities  
Pet Friendly  
**01278 794111**  
[www.GoSomerset.co.uk](http://www.GoSomerset.co.uk)

**BUDE CORNWALL 2 BED CHALET** On 4\* woodland site, pool & free entertainment, May, June, Sept & Oct £140 pw. Whitsun & July £200pw. School Holidays £395pw  
07974 226 928.

**travel abroad**

**READERS ARE REMINDED**  
to check with any Advertisers that their holiday costs are fully covered by a recognised bonding or insurance scheme.

**what's on**

**antique fairs**

**\*ANTIQUE/ COLLECTORS VINTAGE FAIR\***  
CORNBOV HALL, HAGLEY STREET, HALESOWEN, B63 3AT  
**21ST APRIL & 12TH MAY**  
8.00AM - 4PM  
**07783 680 627**

**3 Home & Services**

**furniture**

**LARGE OLD CHARM** Cabinet with glass doors lower cupboard, excellent condition, £300 ono.  
01384 343492

**TWO X TWO SEATER** black leather sofas, excellent condition, modern design, light oak feet, £180.  
Telephone 01384 236210.

**Free Ads**  
IT'S FREE. IT'S EASY  
For items up to £250.  
Online at [bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk](http://bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk)

**MASSIVE £1,000,000 STOCK CLEARANCE ZONE**

WE HAVE CRASHED THE PRICES ON HUNDREDS AND HUNDREDS OF SUITES, SOFAS, ARMCHAIRS, DINING SETS, BEDS & BEDROOM FURNITURE AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!

**PLUS! UPTO 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT** (BY AGREEING TO STATUS)

**INTEREST FREE CREDIT EXAMPLES**

SPEND £500	SPEND £1000
£50 deposit and 9 x monthly payments @ £75 per month	£100 deposit and 12 x monthly payments @ £75 per month
Total payable = £500	Total payable = £1000

**0% APR 0% APR**

Available on many sale items. Exclusions apply. See terms for details.

**50% OFF MIRRORS BEDROOM FURNITURE**  
EG. DRESSING TABLE WAS £329 NOW £164.50

**PLUS...UP TO 75% OFF OCCASIONAL ITEMS**

LEATHER & FABRIC RECLINER CHAIRS UPTO 70% OFF DISPLAY MODELS  
EG. GUNWARR RECLINER IN WINE WAS £999 NOW £239

TWO BEDROOM SUITE DOUBLE BEDS & DRAWING CREST & BEDSIDE ASSEMBLED COLOURS WAS £396 NOW £195

MARBLE COMPOSITE HEAVY DINING TABLE & 6 FRAM LEATHER CHAIRS IN GREY & BLACK WAS £1695 - SAVE £1000 NOW £695

FRANCISCA BUTTUS MADE 3 SEATER & 2 SEATER SOFAS BLACK & BROWN LEATHER ON TAN FABRIC WAS £1280 NOW £599 THE PAIR

Telephone: **0121 557 6885**

**BFC FURNITURE FACTORY OUTLET STORE**  
UNIT 9, CONEYGREEN TRADING ESTATE, CONEYGREEN ROAD, BURNTREE, DUDLEY DY4 7RG

OPENING HOURS: MON-SAT 10AM-6PM SUNDAY 10AM-4PM

**in your garden**

**TWO LAWNMOWERS**, 1 electric, 1 petrol, good condition, £80 for the two. 01902 755200.

**items for sale**

**ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED**  
That the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

**PAPER CRAFT EQUIPMENT**, inc dye cutting machine, dyes, stamps, £85 ono.  
01902 498366.

**HAVE YOU CHECKED** your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

**items wanted**

**A BEST CASH PRICE PAID FOR DIE CAST CARS / LORRIES / TOY SOLDIERS**  
Air fix, Britains, Corgi, Dinky, Spot on, Tri-ang.  
Best prices paid.  
Any condition.  
Collections bought.  
Telephone 01922 327897 or 07976 691563.

**WANTED**  
ALL MILITARIA ITEMS FROM WARS  
Swords, medals, helmets etc, single or full items.  
German, Japanese, British.  
Will collect.  
Very good prices paid  
07511 500337.

**READERS ARE ADVISED**  
to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

**kitchens & bathrooms**

**BATHROOM SUITE**  
White, modern, fluted edge, bath, toilet, hand basin, pedestal, stand and taps, excellent condition.  
£175 ono.  
01902 820973.

**loans**

**READERS ARE REMINDED**  
that they may require professional advice before entering into obligations.

**specialists at your service**

**aerials**

**CHOOSE CLASSIFIED**

**"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"**

Steve - AA Digital Aerials

**For great business results call**  
**01902 319 191**

**Classified Ads**  
Brought to you by Express & Star

**AA DIGITAL AERIALS**  
SATELLITE & CCTV AERIALS FITTED FROM £75  
Work Guaranteed  
01902 858191  
01384 429166  
01543 439095  
01922 716029  
07833 738857

**A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST**  
CCTV cameras fitted to wallmount, free quote/any area. 07850 330251

**alarms/security**

**PREMIER ALARMS**  
Supplied and Fitted £195  
Servicing and Repairs  
12 Months Warranty  
All areas covered  
All quotes beaten!  
Call: 0121 601 9791

**building services**

**DAVIES & SON BUILDERS**  
Over 35 years experience in the industry  
All aspects of building work including: Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways & landscaping.  
Discounts offered.  
01902 579592 / 07837 994465

**building supplies**

**QUALITY DOORS AND HARDWOOD FLOORING** @ low prices.  
Call Arnold Laver 0121 533 5423.

**carpentry & joinery**

**B & S JOINERY** Six internal pre-primed doors fully fitted from £370.  
0121 5322672 or 07958 552625.

**gas fitting**

**READERS ARE ADVISED**  
To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.  
It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

**gardening services**

**GARDENS TIDIED** from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

**GREENALY**  
Fencing Decking Slabbing Turfing  
DBS Checked  
07956 584523 • 0121 550 1712

**fencing**

**PORTWAY FENCING**  
SPECIAL OFFER  
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards £695  
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.  
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656  
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm  
Sat 8am - 1.30pm  
83 Portway Rd, W'bury  
DELIVERY AVAILABLE  
[www.portwayfencing.co.uk](http://www.portwayfencing.co.uk)

**CHOOSE CLASSIFIED**

**"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representative and I would recommend them to anyone!"**  
Michael - Portway Fencing.

**For great business results call**  
**01902 319 191**

**Classified Ads**  
Brought to you by Express & Star

**house clearances**

**ABSOLUTE BEST** cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken.  
07852 172641 / 07710 360327

**AJT CLEARANCES**  
FULL & PART HOUSE CLEARANCES  
BEREAVEMENT SPECIALISTS  
LICENSED WASTE CARRIERS  
01384 732429 / 07752 175707

**plastering**

**M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING SERVICES**, Home/Garden improvements, Mark or Sara: 07741 770897

**STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE**  
Clean and Reliable, All Work Undertaken, All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07877 262943.

**removals**

**KT HOUSE REMOVALS**  
12 years experience.  
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.  
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.  
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:  
**07771 727119**

**CALL DEAN NOW:** For all your Removal needs, 07429 453209 / 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

**roofing**

**MG ROOFING** Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

**rubbish removal**

**LET'S TALK RUBBISH** No Skips Needed.Talk/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 628382

**t.v. / home entertainment**

**service**

**AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST**  
Any TV Repairs, Plasma, LED etc, CCTV cameras supplied & fitted. Any area. Free Estimates. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation, Wall mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251



## 4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information.

### guns & dogs

**NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS**  
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

### pets corner

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midlands News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

**AMERICAN COCKER** Spaniel, 1 dog, very loving and cute, ready to go now, vaccinated, microchipped, wormed, Mom and Dad can be seen. £300. 07974 749908.

**BIRD CAGE** and stand, as new. £25. Telephone 01902 755200.



**ROSEDENE RESCUE CENTRE**  
1, Radley Road, Rushall, Walsall, WS4 1LN.  
01922 627013.

Open Monday to Saturday 11am - 5pm.  
Sundays - Bank Holidays 11am - 4pm.

Takes in relinquished dogs from owners, all areas (if they are vet checked/up to date with jabs).

Donations of dog food, toys, bedding and vet bills always appreciated.

**TWO COCKATIELS**, 1 grey, 1 yellow, both female, with new cage on stand, allergy forces sale. £80. SOLD.

**YORKSHIRE TERRIER** puppies, four boys, two girls, £250 each. 07710 55932.

## 5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into any obligations.

## 6 Property

mobile homes

**STATIC CARAVAN**  
35 X 12, with large decking, 2 bed, 8 berth, on quiet site in Mid Wales, 2 fishing pools, 20 minutes to coast, ground rent included for 2017.  
£8,000.  
07555 303350.

### properties wanted

# WE PAY 100%

of purchase price **EVERY TIME!**  
**For Your House CASH**

**You agree the price, we buy the house...**

- NO AGENTS FEES • COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
- FREE SOLICITORS • ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION

# 0800 999 999 6

# 01384 500 500

www.black-countrypromises.co.uk \* subject to terms

### Wolverhampton properties

# CASH NOW FOR YOUR HOUSE

UP TO **£25,000** We can buy your house in 7 days

**CASH ADVANCE NOW (in 24hrs)**  
• Free Solicitors • No Fees • Any House • Any Condition

# 0800 389 6788

01902 628047 Lines open 24 hours a day 7 days a week Terms applicable

# I CAN BEAT ANY PRICE!

I pay 100% of purchase price

Call now for the best price on your house

- Guaranteed offer\* ■ Free solicitors ■ Terms apply
- Any condition ■ No fees\*

24 hours  
Free phone or landline

# 0800 783 2822

01384 226086

**Dewmark Homes**

### pink sell quick

run by women

- Any property • Buy quick • No agents • Responsiveness stopped
- Any condition • Free confidential service • Free valuation • Free cash offer

0800 044 8109 01922 689023

## Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish

# £££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££

## Houses / Land Required

Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**

Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154  
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049  
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901  
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

### Need to sell your home fast?

We can help you make a fresh start

With solutions to suit... you can clear your debts and make a fresh start

**Purchase Agreed Within 7 DAYS**

ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED  
COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT  
FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS  
FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE  
LOCAL COMPANY

**MARION | PROPERTY SOLUTIONS**

WHY NOT CALL US TODAY  
for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?

**0121 405 0797**

\*Terms and Conditions apply  
OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7

# WE BUY ANY HOUSE CASH

CALL US FREE 24 Hours/ 7days

# 0800 246 1047

**WE OFFER £20,000 CASH ADVANCE**

- ✓ NO Fees & FREE Solicitors
- ✓ We Buy Any Area & Any Condition

www.ukfastsale.co.uk

### CHOOSE CLASSIFIED

"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"

Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer

For great business results call **01902 319 191**

**ClassifiedAds**  
Brought to you by Express & Star

### CHOOSE CLASSIFIED

"We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates."

Black Country Homes

For great business results call **01902 319 191**

**ClassifiedAds**  
Brought to you by Express & Star

### accommodation to let

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

**THREE BEDROOM** house end terrace, Pennfields, DG, CH, carpets, £550pcm, 07886 781724.

## 8 Motoring

### cars under £1500

**FIAT GRANDE PUNTO 1.2 ACTIVE**  
2007, 71,800 miles, blue, electric windows, alarm, full MoT, new exhaust.  
£1,450.  
07375 697505.

## 7 Jobs

### office & secretarial

**LAPAL HOUSE RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME**

**ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT ASSISTANT**

required part time 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Monday to Friday to help our Care team with general office duties and Resident file updates.

CV to michelle@lapalhouse.co.uk  
Lapal House, Lane South, Halesowen. B62 0ES.  
Ring 0121 503 0326 for further information

### full time - general

**THE STOURPORT HIGH SCHOOL & VILTH FORM COLLEGE**  
Minster Road, Stourport on Severn, Worcestershire  
www.shs.worcs.sch.uk

## Data Analyst

Scale 5: £20456 pro rata (dependent upon hours)  
Full or part time considered (18 - 37 hrs/week)  
Term time only  
1 year fixed term contract

We are looking for a logical problem solver with first class attention to detail to join our data team. You will provide data analysis across the schools in our multi academy trust in a clear and concise way using various platforms such as performance dashboards, war boards, SIMs, SISRA and 4Matrix.

Previous experience of management information software would be an advantage but more important is an extensive knowledge of excel along with excellent communication skills.

To apply please download and complete an application form clearly stating the number of hours per week you are available to work.

Please visit [www.shs.worcs.sch.uk](http://www.shs.worcs.sch.uk) for full application details.  
Closing date: Wednesday 26 April 2017

### CHOOSE CLASSIFIED

"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"

Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer

For great business results call **01902 319 191**

**ClassifiedAds**  
Brought to you by Express & Star

### BARGAIN

**MINI ONE**  
03 reg, full MoT, FSH,  
1 owner,  
excellent condition,  
black  
£950  
07848 820177.

### IDEAL FIRST CAR

**PEUGEOT 106 Eco Independence**  
2000 reg, 89k, MoT end of July, very good condition and runner, burnt orange colour,  
£300 ono.  
07947 518846.

### ROVER 211

2000, 26,000 miles, petrol, red, air bag, fsh, pas, alarm, MoT October 2017, stereo, 2 owners from new.  
£500 ono.  
01384 355969.

### SUZUKI GRAND VITARA

2004, 104,000 miles, silver, 2.0 litre, petrol, 12 months MoT. Serviced, good condition. £1,500.  
07974 691979.

### BARGAIN

**VAUXHALL AGILA 1.0**

07 reg, red, 52,000 miles, CD, new tyres and exhaust, 12 months MoT, clean, drives well.

£675 ono.  
07538 982184.

### SUPER BARGAIN

**VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB**  
1.2, 3dr, 52 reg, silver, only 78k with previous MoT's, 12 months MoT, fantastic condition.  
only £895.  
07840 175237.

### cars over £1500

**HAVE YOU CHECKED** your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

### MUST BE SEEN

**AUDI QUATTRO 1.8 TT**  
1991  
Blue, low miles, MoT,  
Well looked after.  
£1,750 ono.  
07948 146611.

### CITROEN XSARA PICASSO

Diesel, 2008, 67,000 miles, electric mirrors, air con, long MoT, central locking, pas, alloys, CD.  
£1,799.  
07879 403302.

### 4X4

**KIA SORENTO**  
2004, 2.5 diesel, 4WD, MoT, Sat Nav, parking sensors, reversing camera, low bar, full leather interior,  
good condition for year.  
£2,500 ono.  
07773 354042. 07703 548050.

### 4X4

**LANDROVER DEFENDER 90**  
2.4 TDCi, 2008, hard top, 3-dr, manual, grey, alloy wheels, electric windows, tow bar, 2 owners from new, full main dealer service history, excellent condition.  
£14,999.  
07411 414284.

### PRESTIGE

**MERCEDES SL350 AUTOMATIC CONVERTIBLE**  
54 reg, 74,000 miles, fsh, Obsidian black, with cream leather, keyless go, power hood, panoramic glass roof, anti roll bar wind deflector, alloys, Sat Nav, Xenon lights, 2 keys.  
Absolutely pristine.  
£9,999.  
Telephone 07836 204450 or 07545 601552.

### LOW MILEAGE

**SKODA OCTAVIA**  
2011, 12 months MoT, full main dealer SH, genuine 35,000 miles, 4 new tyres, cam belt changed, rear privacy glass, excellent condition, non smoker.  
£5,795 ono.  
07752 065437.

### BARGAIN

**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2**  
2007, 5-dr,  
Family owned from new, 39,000 miles,  
Main dealer FSH,  
nice condition,  
ideal 1st car.  
£1,795  
07465 290773.

### EXCELLENT CONDITION

**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SE**  
Automatic, blue, 2010, 5-dr, 28,000 miles, 12 months MoT, top of the range, all electric, FSH.  
£4,500.  
07908 009210.

### IDEAL FIRST CAR

**VW LUPO**  
52 reg, good condition, full MoT, service history,  
£750 ono.  
01902 755072 or 07990 513259.

### BARGAIN

**WV POLO 1.2**  
2007, blue,  
one previous owner,  
57,200 miles,  
full MoT,  
good condition.  
£2,200 ono  
01922 445679 / 07815 130824.

### classic cars

**WANTED, CLASSIC Car.** Private cash buyer. Any condition, anything considered.  
01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

### motorbikes

**L.P.G.**  
**KAWASKI KE125 TRAIL BIKE**  
1974, American Import, complete, runs well, great project,  
£1,050.  
01902 741598.

### scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

**ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT**  
Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available  
0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400.  
Oldbury Area.

### vehicles wanted

**alan reed cars**  
Used cars wanted for cash Top prices paid. HP settled. Buyer could call.  
**01562 711083 / 07831 245313**

**CROWN MOTORS** guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549649, buyer will call.

## 10 Personals

personal

**ATTRACTIVE** lonely Female seeking broadminded males within a 20 mile radius. 01902 469 151.

**LADY, WIDOW 78**  
Slim, warm and friendly, WLTm non smoker driver for companionship and Friendship and maybe romance, with a good sense of humour.  
Enjoys countryside, antiques, meals out, holidays etc.  
Wish to meet someone who I can travel with and laugh with again.  
Stourbridge or Dudley area.  
Box Number P20773, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

**LOOKING FOR MY SON**  
Mr A Lewis, last seen in Wolverhampton.  
Please get in touch.  
Write to  
Box Number P20776, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

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**MR MAGIC**  
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# Ranger Rover Story — a celebration

By Sharon Walters

Land Rover has opened a new visitor attraction at its thriving Solihull manufacturing plant. 'The Range Rover Story' is an interactive exhibit created to celebrate 50 years of the world's most revered luxury SUV.

Range Rover has been manufactured at Solihull since 1970, but its history with the site goes back to 1967 when the first secret prototype was conceived, codenamed Velar. The new exhibit will take visitors on a time-travelling voyage from its inception in the mid 1960s, through to the introduction of the Range Rover Sport and Range Rover Evoque.

The exhibition culminates in an exciting unveiling of the new Range Rover Velar, celebrating British design and engineering integrity.

Roger Crathorne (known as Mr Land Rover) dedicated 50 years' service to Land Rover and has been heavily involved in the creation of the exhibition. He said: "The exhibit tells the incredible story of the Range Rover, from the original Velar prototype through to today's new model."

"At the time I began my career in 1967 as a technical assistant on the Velar Team, the intention was never to build a luxury vehicle. Over the 50 years since, the Range Rover has come a long way. We wanted to develop a more comfortable on-road Land Rover that would combine the comfort of the Rover with the Land Rover 4x4 capability to support a growing leisure market."

Nigel Blenkinsop, operations director at Solihull, said: "We are hugely proud to build the Range Rover Velar at Solihull, the



The story of Range Rover – 50 years



Story unfolds and reveals what lies under the skin

birthplace of both the Land Rover and Range Rover. Here, we have invested over £2bn in recent years to enable us to triple production. Our business is now Britain's number one car manufacturer."

The opening of the Range Rover exhibition coincides with the opening of Velar manufacturing tours at Solihull. Velar is the

third new model in a year to be launched at the plant, following the Jaguar F-PACE and new Discovery. Velar is produced in one of the largest aluminium body shops in the world and is beautifully finished in a versatile trim hall; capable of producing three different SUVs – all built to customers' unique specifications.

The Solihull plant has contributed to the company doubling its sales and headcount in the past five years. This has supported the UK's revival in manufacturing, boosting the British economy where the automotive company provides 240,000 jobs in the supply chain.

The Range Rover family contributes £10bn

annually to the UK economy and is Britain's largest luxury export.

To book on this tour visit: [www.solihull.landroverexperience.co.uk/manufacturing/range-rover-story](http://www.solihull.landroverexperience.co.uk/manufacturing/range-rover-story). A manufacturing tour and off-road experience at Solihull's Land Rover Experience Centre is also available to book in conjunction with the Range Rover Story.



Mr Land Rover, Roger Crathorne pictured right, dedicated 50 years service to Land Rover

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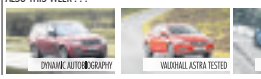
## MOTURING

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## Trauma of being stranded roadside

Close to half a million UK drivers a year are left stranded on the road after being involved in accidents that leave their cars immobile.

One in eight drivers are also forced to await rescue on a dangerous stretch of road, research by Direct Line has revealed.

The survey, which took into account 2,006 responses by UK adults, also found that 52 per cent of respondents under 35 felt vulnerable following an accident.

Simon Williams, RAC spokesman, said: "Being stranded at the side of a busy road after an accident can be a frightening experience.

"Having attended the scenes of thousands of accidents RAC recovery teams often find motorists and their passengers still in their vehicles on busy roads. We strongly advise everyone in a stricken vehicle to move to a place of safety as quickly and as carefully as possible to avoid the risk of being involved in another incident, unless you are unable to or it would put you in greater danger to do so."

The survey also revealed that a quarter of drivers had to resort to calling friends or family members to come and rescue them.

Gus Park, head of motor insurance at Direct Line, said: "Being stranded by the roadside can be extremely distressing for the driver and passengers involved, especially after a collision that leaves the vehicle unroadworthy. With a thousand people involved in car accidents every day, the last thing they need is to be left stranded in a vulnerable, or inconvenient location with no means to get to their destination."

The data also showed that female drivers were more likely to call a partner, while men preferred to contact their insurers first.

## Lost car keys prove to be a bonus for owner

A 1996 Mercedes-Benz SL500 whose owner drove only 80 miles before losing the keys and never using it again has just been sold at auction by international auctioneers Coys for the record price of £56,640.

Purchased as a birthday present for its sole lady owner, it was driven just 80 miles before being stored in an underground garage. The owner lost the keys and never drove it again. Twenty-one years later it was found and sold by Coys at their Spring Classics auction in London this week.

Chris Routledge, CEO of Coys, said: "This is a fantastic price bearing in mind that a normal version of this car, with reasonable mileage, would probably be worth 20% of what this SL500 made today. An exciting sale and a new world record!"

The Mercedes-Benz SL500 R129 roadsters were produced from 1989 through 2002, featuring many innovative details for the time, such as electronically controlled damping and a hidden, automatically extending roll-over bar, electric windows and mirrors. This is one of the more powerful and sought after M119 engined cars and also boasts a number of optional factory extras, including heated front seats, six CD multi-changer, upgraded radio and wood-leather steering wheel. The car has just recently been subject of a light re-commission and is supplied with books, manuals and an MOT certificate until March 2018.



## MEET THE TEAM

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# Luxurious, elegant compact car with moves like Strictly!

By Andy Richardson

I peered over the bonnet. It stretched further into the distance than the Golden Gate Bridge and for a moment I thought I might need binoculars. Because the Infiniti Q30 is a curvaceous beast; part super-model, part muscled-up gym dude. Its curves roll like waves on the Atlantic; all ebb and flow, rise and fall. They conceal a ballys 2.2 litre diesel engine that powers from 0-62 in 8.5 seconds. And if you can find a road with no speed cameras and no speed limits you can squeeze it to 134mph. Vroom blinkin' vroom.

The impressive styling, however, is just the start of it. For the aesthetic qualities of the Q30 are backed up by ritzy comfort, state-of-the-art technology, impressive performance and more grunt than a 93 decibel Maria Sharapova serve. 15-Love.

### Gorgeous

But before we marvel at the satin chrome window trim, dual USB ports and six speaker sound system or the tyre pressure monitoring system to make sure it's phat tyres can cope with a tarmac feast, let's dwell for a moment on that beautiful exterior.

The Infiniti is, quite simply, drop dead gorgeous. A toothy grill and gentle undulations give the front magnetic attraction. LED auto-level headlights provide high level illumination while big-is-beautiful bonnet gives it kerb appeal. The Q30 is a real bobby dazzler, a head-turning, show-stopping stunner.

It's impressive on the inside as it is outside. A leather steering wheel and shift leather stands proudly above a leatherette dashboard and Nappa leather seat finishings. There are wood inserts for the door panels and centre cluster. Power lumbar support and three heat setting seats for the driver and passenger chairs make driving – or being driven – as pleasurable as taking front row seats at Birmingham's lavishly-upholstered Symphony Hall.

An all-singing, all-dancing entertainment system that's intuitive and responsive adds to the fun. Dual USB ports with iPod and smart phone connectivity, active noise cancellation, a cd player and Bluetooth



The Infiniti Q30 has impressive styling backed up by ritzy comfort, state-of-the-art technology and impressive performance

streaming, voice recognition and touch street infotainment means you can listen to music in just about any format at a volume that would wake the neighbours. So well-thought-out is the media package that the only surprise is there isn't also a vinyl player.

The car hugs the road like a bear with a honey tree. It offers a fantastically smooth and sure ride; providing reassuring grip. It pulls down into the road, giving stability through corners and at speed. The sense of safety is underscored by a four-wheel ABS system, seven airbags – to protect knees and hips, as well as faces – adaptive

brake assist, a dash-mounted cruise control and a lane departure warning provide additional confidence. The Q30 is all about the detail and Infiniti have gone the extra mile. So while we might expect rain sensing wipers, rear parking sensors and a hill start assist, the forward collision warning and stop and auto dimming driver door mirror are an added bonus.

The Q30 offers three driver modes: Eco, regular and bloomin' fast – sorry, we meant to say 'sport'. The latter is cheetah-like. Graceful and bristling with power, it eats tarmac like a choc-o-holic in the Lindt factory.

And it's that drive that's the most impressive aspect of the Q30. Because for all of the whistles and bells, for all of the I've-done-quite-well-in-my-executive-life-and-it's-time-to-enjoy-the-rewards brilliant, and for all of the why-waste-extra-on-a-shiny-BMW-Mercedes-or-Audi-when-this-provides-all-of-their-brilliance-for-a-fraction-of-the-price value; the Q30 is, first and foremost, a delight to drive.

Quick, sturdy, powerful and responsive, it's an executive model with sports car feel; a luxurious and elegant statement-of-a-car that handles as beautifully as a pro dancer on Strictly.

# Restored 'spy van' going on show

A blue Ford Transit used by the government for surveillance operations will be displayed complete with period-correct camera and monitoring equipment.

The former government 'spy van' has been fully restored for display at the forthcoming Consumer Vehicle Show.

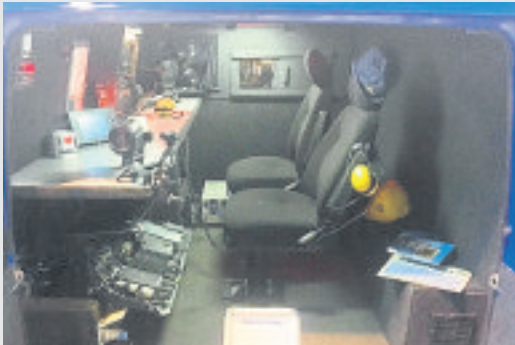
The blue 1988 Ford Transit used to be owned by HM Revenue and Customs and was used by the agency to monitor tax avoiders.

It has now been restored to its original glory and is due to go on display at the Commercial Vehicle Show at Birmingham NEC between April 25 and 27.

Paperwork with the vehicle shows that it operated in south-east, north-west, north-east England as well as Scotland, covering just 6,000 miles between 2003 and 2013. The mileage now reads 48,000.

After seeing service with government, it was bought by James Davis, director of commercial vehicles at Manheim Auctions, in 2014.

It then underwent restoration at



Period-correct 'spying' equipment was installed during restoration of the van which was active for ten years

experts C Walton Ltd in Bruntingthorpe, Leicestershire, and had period-correct cameras, microphones and other monitoring equipment fitted to give the interior an authentic feel.

The stalwart Ford Transit is one of the most iconic and highest-selling vans ever made.

Introduced in 1965, more than eight million examples have been sold – this

particular van was initially restored to celebrate the model's 50th birthday.

On May 22, the 'spy van' Transit will go up for auction with no reserve to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society.







The Paul Hunter Foundation team overcame Pennfields D in the Consolation Cup final



Plate competition runner up Chris Ward picking up silverware from Evans



Plate winner Dan Ward with league chairman Derek Evans



Secretaries handicap winner Mark Gilbert (Sedgley WMC) with trophy

# Serial winner Dan wards off rival to make history

**DANIEL WARD** has become the most decorated player in the history of the Staffs and West Midlands Snooker League.

The Sedgley Ex-Service potter added another piece of silverware to his sizeable haul by claiming the Plate Competition.

Ward rolled in breaks of 46 and 44 on his way to a 3-1 success against Chris Ward (Stafford Institute).

It was his first Plate success having previously won the Individual Championship, Individual Handicap, Junior Championship, Pairs Medley, Foursomes, 3x2 Handicap and the Division One title.

Mark Gilbert (Sedgley WMC) also had cause for celebration after lifting the Secretaries Handicap title.

Gilbert, the league's general secretary, beat Neil Beckley (Hotshots) by a comfortable aggregate score of 189-105 despite a 48 break from Beckley.

There was a team triumph for The Paul Hunter Foundation in the Consolation Cup final.

The Division Four side overcame Division Six outfit Pennfields D 546-512 to claim the trophy for the second time having won it in 2015.

## Resistance

Connor Showell, Nathan Edwards, Jodie Humphries and Tom Hurst all won for the Foundation with Bill Bird the only Pennfields player to offer any resistance.

Hotshots are in pole position to win the race for Division One glory.

The championship battle turned in Hotshots' favour after they beat Stafford Institute A4-1 away from home while title rivals Sedgley Ex-Service and Brandhall Labour both lost.

Callum Downing (40), Roy Stokes, Milan Krstancovic and Jamie Brown secured the win for Hotshots which took them a step nearer to their first title.

Sedgley Ex-Service A saw their challenge go up in smoke when they were crushed 5-0 by Shifnal A.

Matt Davies rolled in a fine break of 95 for the Shropshire side with Chris Jones, Shaun Harris (47), Ian Duffy and Paul Lloyd (59) also winning.

Reigning champions Brandhall Labour A's hopes of landing a sixth straight title took a huge hit when they went down to a shock 3-2 reverse at home to

## SPORTING MEMORIES

By Nick Elwell

**Another piece of silverware is added to Mark's sizeable haul by claiming the Plate Competition**

Cannock Cons A. Riley Parsons, Mick Faulkner (50) and Dave Coburn were on target for Cons.

Karl Ashmore (79) and Alan Hooper responded for Labour, who are now three points behind Hotshots.

Division Two leaders Willenhall Liberal B maintained their two-point lead going into the final week of the season with a 5-0 win against Pennfields B. Scott Tapper (38), Simon Gough, Lee Bannister, Andy Price and Lee Thomson secured the whitewash.

Second-placed Sedgley WMC B who also whitewashed their opponents Bilston BC A 5-0 thanks to Steve Spicer, Mo Rucsaal (38), Shaf Hussain, Stuart Barker and Mark Gilbert.

Wolverhampton Electric A have already secured the Division Three titles but there are no fewer than six clubs still in with a chance of securing one of the two remaining promotion places.

Wedgefield RBL A are now in second place after a hard-fought 3-2 away victory at struggling Fordhouses CC A.

Amery made it three titles on the spin as they clinched the Division Four crown despite losing 3-2 to promotion hopefuls Bushbury Grid A.

Essington WMC A confirmed their instant return to Division Three with a 4-1 win at Forty Four Club C. Division Five leaders Pennfields C sealed promotion but will have to wait another week to clinch the title after they suffered a heavy 4-1 home defeat to promotion contenders Bushbury Grid B.

Bushbury Grid C saw their lead at the top of Division Six cut to one point despite defeating promotion candidates Forty Four Club B.

Liam Boucher, Darren Shirley and Paul Wakeman,

in the decider, saw Bushbury home after Andrew Crowther and Sean Rowley had put Forty Four 2-0 up.

Results – Division 1: Brandhall Lab A 2 Cannock Cons A 3; Pennfields A 4 Lea Hall 1; Sedgley WMC A 4 Baggeridge Soc 1; Shifnal WM A 5 Sedgley Ex Service A 0; Stafford Inst A 1 Hotshots SC 4; Wednesfield Cons A 3 Brandhall Lab B 2; Woodfield Soc A 3 Landywood SC A 2.

Division 2: Bilston BC A 0 Sedgley WMC B 5; Golden Cue B 1 Golden Cue A 4; Golden Cue D 2 Shifnal WM B 3; Goodyear A 2 Sedgley WMC C 3; Landywood SC B 4 Woodfield Soc B 1; Smethwick Lab 2 Kingswinford SC 3; Golden Cue C 2 Stafford Inst B 3; Willenhall Lib B 5 Pennfields B 0.

Division 3: Bilston S & S A 2 Wednesfield Cons C 3; British Rail A 1 Wednesfield Cons B 4; Cannock Cons B 2 Goodyear B 3; Fordhouses CC A 2 Wednesfield RBL A 3; Sedgley Ex Service B 2 Bilston BC B 3; Willenhall Lib A 3 Woodfield Soc C 2; W'ton Electric A 4 W'ton Electric B 1; Sedgley Ex Service C 3 Landywood SC D 2.

Division 4: Blymhill 3 Sedgley Ex Service D 2; Bushbury Grid A 3 Amery 2; Coseley Ex Service 4 Bilston S & SB 1; Shepwell Green A 1 British Rail B 4; Codsall Firs B 4 Codsall Firs A 1; Forty Four Club C 1 Essington WMC A 4; Golden Cue F 2 Stafford Cons 3; W'ton Electric C 1 P.Hunter Foundation (Cue E) 4.

Division 5: Codsall Firs C 1 Golden Cue J 4; Essington WMC B 3 Woodfield Soc E 2; Woodfield Soc D 3 Bentley Moor 2; Golden Cue H 3 W'ton Electric D 2; JD's SC 3 Darlaston Cons A 2; Landywood SC C 3 Triangle SC 2; Pennfields C 1 Bushbury Grid B 4; Sedgley WMC D 3 Golden Cue G 2.

Division 6: Darlaston Cons B 3 RAFA B 2; Forty Four Club B 2 Bushbury Grid C 3; The Royal 1 Fordhouses CC B 4; Wednesfield RBL B 3 Fordhouses CC C 2; Essington WMC C 2 Pennfields D 3; Fordhouses CC D 0 Bilston S & S C 5; Wednesfield Cons D 2 British Rail C 3; Woodfield Soc F 1 Golden Cue K 4.

Consolation Cup: Pennfields D 512 P.Hunter Foundation (Cue E) 546 (Handicaps - Pennfields D 287, P Hunter Foundation (Cue E) 231).

Individual Plate: Daniel Ward 3 Chris Ward 1. Secretaries Handicap: N Beckley 105 Mark Gilbert 189 (Handicaps - Beckley 7, Gilbert 21).

## It's full speed ahead as Shelley excels

THERE was plenty for racing fans to get excited about away from the British Superbikes over the weekend as the Darley Moor Club Championship season got under way.

Burtwood's Lloyd Shelley recorded a perfect four wins from four starts, with three fastest laps, to get his title defences off to the perfect start.

But the victories did come easy as, despite leading across the line after each of the six laps during the opening Formula 600 race, rival Steven Proctor was no more than half a second behind throughout.

The Staffordshire star, however, enjoyed an easier time in both Sound of Thunder races – another title he is defending – taking victories from Jamie Medhurst by 11 and eight seconds respectively.

Stuart Hall, from Rugeley, fared well in the Mini Sound of Thunder class – which is raced alongside the Sound of Thunder bikes – taking the runner-up spot in each race, finishing an impressive eighth and ninth overall.

Dudley's Mark Cockerton sits second in the Classic 350 series table after the opening round, while Willenhall's McAuley Longmore is third in the Formula 125 class.

## Reece races into top spot in new duathlon

BLACK Country Triathletes made the most of the good weather as the season got well under way. One of BCT's junior athletes, Reece Ashfield aged 17, competed against adults in a new Formula 5 Duathlon at the National Bowl, Milton Keynes. He came home in first place overall in a time of 47:40.

Athletes took podium places in several age categories in races in Hereford and Halesowen. Rob Kennard & Scott Palmer raced in the Hereford Duathlon, Kennard finishing 21st overall and 2nd in the age group 50 category in the standard distance and Palmer finishing fifth and first in his age group (male senior) in the sprint distance.

A number of BCT athletes competed in one of the first triathlons of the year at Halesowen Sprint Tri consisting of a 400m swim, 20km bike and a 5km run. Nick Blackman was first home for the club finishing sixth overall and fourth in the Vet 40 category in a time of 1:15:20.

The only female racing for the club was Stacey Skitt who had a fantastic come back race finishing in 1:23:27 placing her second female overall and first senior female. Chris Pedley and Gary Hickman brought home first and second in the male Vet 60 age group. In the senior male age group Thomas Dauncey finished 12th overall.

## FA group's goal is to help out hospice

THE Staffordshire FA has announced a charity of the year partnership with The Donna Louise Children's Hospice.

Throughout the next year, the FA group will be working with the hospice to raise funds and awareness of the services offered to children and young adults.

The Donna Louise provides a wide range of vital services for children and young adults with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions, and their families.

Each year the charity must raise at least £3 million, most of which comes from fundraising and donations, to continue to offer its services.

Adam Evans, chief executive officer of the charity, based in Stoke-on-Trent, said, "We are delighted that The Staffordshire FA has been able to secure a charity partnership with The Donna Louise.

A spokesman for Staffordshire FA said: "It is fantastic that we are in a position to provide support and exposure to the hospice and highlight the amazing service that they provide for families throughout Staffordshire and the surrounding area."





## A pointless Easter for Halesowen

**Sutton Coldfield 1 Halesowen Town 0**  
HALESOWEN ended the Easter period pointless after a single-goal defeat at relegation-threatened Sutton Coldfield.

It was the Yeltz who started the brightest, although Sutton had the first chance on 14 minutes when Aaron Birch headed wide from a corner.

Good work from Halesowen's Serigne Diop saw him set up Lee Chilton three minutes later but his shot went wide. Diop tried a shot himself on the half-hour after being set-up by Ethan Delaney but that also went wide.

The second half was fairly even and Chilton saw a shot save by home goalkeeper James Wren on 56 minutes. But it was the home side who grabbed a vital three points on 82 when Halesowen goalkeeper Daniel Platt could only punch out a shot as far as Nathaniel Kelly and he slotted home.

**Workington 1 Halesowen Town 0**  
A young side made the trip to Cumbria and put up a creditable performance against Evo-Stik Premier Division play-off chasers Workington.

Yeltz keeper Daniel Platt was the star. He saved a penalty from David Symington as early as the third minute after Bradley Lewis tripped Connor Tinnion in the box. Platt continued to excel in the early stages when he saved Nathan Waterston's shot on the turn.

Josh Calvert then went close for Workington from a corner but saw his effort deflected on to the bar. Cameron Steele and Andre Johnson did get shots in for Halesowen but Workington took the lead five minutes before the break when Tinnion finished off a neat move.

Platt had a good second half too, saving from Tinnion and Sam Joel, but Halesowen could offer little up front.

Halesowen tonight (Thursday) host Nantwich Town (7.45pm).

## Cricket skipper is taking positives from friendly loss

HALESOWEN cricket captain Richard Brooker was keen to focus on the positives after a narrow pre-season friendly defeat at Droitwich Spa.

New signing Jamie Harris scored 68 on his debut whilst Wes Griffiths, Tom Williams and Hassan Quami all chipped in with solid scores as they reached 205.

But Droitwich passed their below par total with two overs to spare to ensure the Hales' season got off to a losing start.

Despite the result, Brooker was pleased to get back in action and is feeling optimistic ahead of their clash with Bromsgrove at Seth Somers Park on Saturday (1pm).

Brooker said: "It wasn't the result we wanted but in terms of game time this was exactly what everyone needed."

"It was good to see new signings Jamie Harris and Jack Roberson on the field and when we are up to full strength it will be interesting to see the fight for places."

"Last year we had very little April prep but with the weather behaving itself so far we should be a bit further forward by the time the League starts."

## Howell-zat? Brothers get England call



Coseley cricketers Jimmy and Nathan Howell

TWO Black Country cricketing brothers have been bowled over after earning an England call.

Jimmy and Nathan Howell have made the cut for 16-man provisional squad for this year's Indoor Cricket World Cup in Dubai.

The Coseley duo play for Solihull Dragons in the National League and came through a grueling trial process to land a shot at a place in the final 12 that head to the UAE in September.

The duo, who both attended High Arcal School and who have figured outdoors for Coseley, Penn, Beacon and Old Hill, have only been playing at National League standard for two seasons.

### Cricket

Despite enjoying a successful season that saw him top the league averages, Jimmy, aged 24, admitted he was stunned by the call up.

"I didn't expect it all," said Jimmy, who is a sports educator for RG Gym and Sports. "But there is still plenty of hard work to be done to make the final 12."

Nathan, 22, who will play Birmingham League cricket for Brevod this summer, said: "Jimmy was the 14th name read out and I was the next one. Both of us were over the moon."

# HOME DEFEAT TO OLD RIVALS

## CRADLEY slipped to their first defeat of the season in a dramatic encounter with old rivals Mildenhall at Monmore Green.

After an encouraging start to the campaign, the Motor Market Heathens had been hoping for a dream return to their adopted Wolverhampton base.

But they were on the wrong side of a tight 46-43 scoreline in their first meeting at the track in 2017. Will Pottinger's side were made to pay the price for a number of errors by a strong Mildenhall team, led by star guest Dan Bewley.

The teenager went untroubled in five rides to see the visitors over the line and ensure Heathens could never claw back the points they threw away in the first half of the meeting.

The nightmare spell began when Dan Greenwood spectacularly lifted and hit the fence on the opening bend of heat three, allowing Mildenhall to draw level. And when Danny Ayres slid off on the opening bend of an eventful heat seven it gave the visitors a slender lead.

### Struggled

Greenwood struggled to recover from his opening ride crash and, although he bounced back to comfortably win heat nine, he could not find a way past the sensational team riding of Jon Armstrong and Jordan Jenkins in heat 12. That saw the visitors establish a five-point advantage.

Cradley reserve Joe Lawlor pulled off a smart move to slice underneath Sam Woods and join partner Ryan Burton at the front for a 5-1 in heat two. Yet he was unable to see off Jordan Jenkins in a thrilling heat eight battle as his partner, Conor Dwyer, took the chequered flag after failing to score in his opening two outings.

Top two Tom Perry and Ayres were solid but no match for the imperious Bewley, while former Heathens' favourite Armstrong roared clear of Perry in heat 10 to put his side back ahead. It was Armstrong's wonderful ride to shepherd home youngster Jenkins in heat 12 which left the writing on the wall. Although the impressive Luke Harris blasted around the outside to fend off Jenkins in the penultimate race to set up a last heat decider, Bewley held his nerve to wrap up the win. Heathens face a tough trip to Mildenhall on April 29.



Slip sliding away - Luke Harris leads as Dan Greenwood loses it at Monday night's Monmore meeting

## Walking football tourney in Steve's memory

A DUDLEY club is holding a walking football tournament in memory of a much-loved player who died suddenly.

The Steve Bragg Memorial Tournament will take place at Summerhill School, Kingswinford, on Sunday.

Walking football teams from as far afield as Leicestershire will be competing in the all-day

event, which begins at 11.30am. The tournament is being organised by Hartshill Strollers in memory of Steve Bragg, who died while on holiday in Spain a year ago.

The 51-year-old father-of-two from Tivdale, was one of the youngest members of Hartshill Strollers. Club chairman Mark Grazier said: "Steve had

been a member for only a few months but was very popular and greatly respected. We hope that the tournament will be a suitable tribute to his memory."

Eight clubs will take part in the 6-a-side tournament at Summerhill School, where Hartshill Strollers are based. Spectators are welcome and admission is free.

## Glassboys have won a play-off place

**Rushall Olympic 0 Stourbridge 2**  
STOURBRIDGE cemented their place in the play-offs with a 2-0 victory over Rushall Olympic.

There was a good tempo to the opening exchanges with the first chance falling to Rushall after good work from George Bowerman saw him link up with Gurjit Singh, whose strike was saved by Matt Gould.

The visitors took the lead in controversial circumstances when Brad Birch was brought down inside the area by Sam Whittall for a penalty, but there appeared to be a handball by the Stourbridge player in the build-up.

Luke Benbow stepped up and stayed cool to find the net from the spot to give his side a 29th-minute lead.

As half-time approached, some positive play from Mickael Partodikromo saw him link up well with Bowerman before dragging a low effort wide.

### Double

Stourbridge managed to double their advantage early in the second period when Ethan Jones found space in front of goal to fire beyond Veiga.

There was a chance for Benbow soon afterwards but his low drive was well watched by Veiga.

A free-kick from Partodikromo found its way over to the far post where Joe Hull saw his strike blocked by the alert Matt Gould in the visitors' goal before a neat passage of play by Rushall ended with Bowerman firing over.

At the other end, Veiga had to be alert to deny Jones and then Jordan Archer before getting down well to keep out a curling low free-kick from the lively Benbow.

Glassboys have the final home game of the season on Saturday against Nantwich Town.

## Walker win at league swim gala final

HALESOWEN swimmers travelled to Droitwich for the grand final of the Worcester Winter League.

It was an achievement to make the final with only the best six teams in the area qualifying.

William Walker in the 11 and under 50m freestyle was the only event winner on the day with several swimmers missing out on victory by fractions of a second.

Halesowen battled gamely to a fifth place finish with the final scores: Worcester A 207, Redditch 146, Stourbridge A 145, Pershore 128, Halesowen 116 and Worcester B 95.

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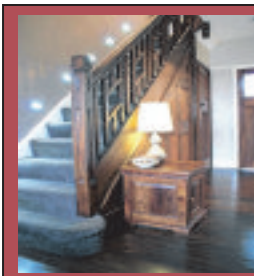
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